



**June 16, 1972**

**Cable from Holsey G. Handyside to Ronald I. Spiers,  
'Guidance on Nuclear Weapons Safety Talks with French'**

**Citation:**

"Cable from Holsey G. Handyside to Ronald I. Spiers, 'Guidance on Nuclear Weapons Safety Talks with French'," June 16, 1972, History and Public Policy Program Digital Archive, National Archives, Record Group 59, Subject-Numeric Files, 1970-73, Top Secret Files, box 1. AE 1-1 FR-US 1973. Obtained and contributed by William Burr and included in NPIHP Research Update #2.  
<http://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/112404>

**Summary:**

Handyside sends guidance for discussions with British diplomat Clive Rose on US nuclear assistance to France. The cable outlines points of discussion and emphasizes the secret nature of these talks as "we do not plan to inform French of fact that we are keeping UK generally informed."

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

- Scan of Original Document

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND969057  
By K.C. NARA Date 12/30/88

AE 1-1 FR-25

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FORM DS 322 (OCR)  
ZFF4 | 108498 | 162314Z JUN 72 |  
TOP SECRET

ROGERS  
XR DEF 12  
108498  
London

DOD/ISA:RBARTHOLOMEW:PM/AE:HGHANDYSIDE:BPW  
6/16/72 EXT 21835  
PM:TRPICKERING

EUR/NE:MR. GEORGE {DRAFT}  
DOD/ATSD/AE:MR. WALSKE {DRAFT}  
S/S - MR. CURRAN

EUR/WE:MR. BEIGEL {DRAFT}  
DOD/ISA-EUR:MR. MORSE {DRAFT}

PRIORITY LONDON

DEF

NODIS REVIEW  
Cat. A - Caption removed;  
transferred to O/TADRC  
Cat. B - Transferred to O/TADRC  
with additional access  
control by S/S  
Cat. C - Caption and body  
retained by S/S  
Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Witman, II  
Date: 8/27 1975

~~NODIS~~

PM:TRP  
RB & HGH  
EUR/NE  
EUR/WE  
ATSD/AE  
DOD/ISA  
S/S RTC

FOR GALLOWAY AND PM DIRECTOR RONALD SPIERS ONLY

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS SAFETY TALKS WITH FRENCH

1. SHOULD CLIVE ROSE AGAIN PROBE FOR INFORMATION ON ABOVE SUBJECT DURING SPIERS' SCHEDULED MEETING WITH HIM ON JUNE 19. WE RECOMMEND HE DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS IN RESPONDING:

A. THIS IS MATTER OF GREAT SENSITIVITY TO BOTH USG AND GOF AND EVEN KNOWLEDGE OF CONTACTS IS HIGHLY RESTRICTED WITHIN TWO GOVERNMENTS.

B. TALKS TOOK PLACE IN PARIS WEEK OF JUNE 5.

C. TALKS DEALT WITH DESCRIPTIONS BY BOTH SIDES OF ORGANIZATION, PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY.

D. EXCHANGES FELT TO BE USEFUL BY BOTH SIDES IN ENHANCING RESPECTIVE UNDERSTANDING ON COMMON PROBLEM.

E. FRENCH SHOWED FULL APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE OF SAFETY AND DEMONSTRATED A CONSERVATIVE REPEAT CONSERVATIVE APPROACH TO PROBLEM.

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F. POSSIBLE SECOND MEETING TENTATIVELY DISCUSSED  
OR AUTUMN.

2. BEGIN FYI: FOLLOWING IS FYI ONLY. AS YOU KNOW, ACCORD SIGNED WITH FRENCH ON NUCLEAR SAFETY EXCHANGES PROHIBITS TRANSFER OF INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES BY EITHER SIDE WITHOUT OTHER'S CONSENT. WE DO NOT PLAN TO INFORM FRENCH OF FACT THAT WE ARE KEEPING UK GENERALLY INFORMED AND ARE CONCERNED THAT FRENCH NOT GET WIND ~~OF THIS FROM BRITISH.~~ HIGH OF THIS FROM BRITISH. HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH OFFICIAL ASKED MEMBER OF US DELEGATION IF US CONDUCTED SIMILAR SAFETY DISCUSSIONS WITH UK. RESPONSE GIVEN WAS THAT US AND UK EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON SAFETY IN CONTEXT OF ONGOING PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION UNDER 1958 AGREEMENT. WE WISH, TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO DISCOURAGE EXCESSIVE BRITISH PROBING ON THIS SUBJECT. END FYI.

3. WE ARE TAKING STEPS HERE WITH DOD AND AEC TO RE-ESTABLISH SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN USG AND HMG ON THIS SUBJECT, AND PLAN SPECIFICALLY TO UTILIZE GALLOWAY-ROSE CHANNEL FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM SPIERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AFTER ARRIVAL OF RECEIPT THIS MESSAGE. EXEMPT HANDYSIDE,  
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