August 09, 1973
Memorandum of Conversation, 'French Nuclear Discussion'

Citation:

Summary:
Transcript of conversation between Kissinger and Schlesinger. Kissinger wants to make Galley "drool" by keeping him interested without actually giving anything up. Kissinger worries about what the British want in terms of Polaris and notes that putting the French on the same footing as the U.S. would scare the British enough to get their point across.

Original Language:
English

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MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Dr. Henry A. Kissinger, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs
Dr. James R. Schlesinger, Secretary of Defense
Major General Brent Scowcroft, Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs

DATE AND TIME: Thursday, August 9, 1973
3:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: French Nuclear Discussion

Kissinger: What we want is something which makes Galley drool but doesn't give him anything but something to study for a while. I will brutalize Galley. Is that doable? Lead them on without giving up anything -- we want to get a handle on them without knowing it.

The British are behaving shitty. If they know we have another option, they might back up. The Brits helped draft the nuclear agreement and now won't help defend it.

[Told about the "instructed Danish representative" and the Brimelow brief to the Nine.]

If they want to play this game, we don't want to use them to funnel information to the Nine.

Schlesinger: We have a British team here to talk about cooperation on Polaris matters. We can stop talking to them or move them out of the building.

EO 12958
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EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION
SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5 (B) (1, 3)
AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED ON Imp. to det.
Kissinger: Let's stop talking on Polaris, but don't move them out. Just tell them Polaris is complete, we have a new Secretary and he's reviewing policy and nothing is agreed on Poseidon.

Schlesinger: One thing which scares the British is a special relationship between the U. S. and the Germans.

Kissinger: And putting Britain and France on the same nuclear basis would get the point across.

Can Foster prepare a good briefing? We can talk about it at the end of the next week.