

**March 9, 1962**

**Memorandum of Telephone Message from Foy D.  
Kohler to Paul H. Nitze and Roswell L. Gilpatric**

**Citation:**

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<https://digitalarchive.wilsoncenter.org/document/110243>

**Summary:**

Instructions for Roswell Gilpatric and Paul Nitze from Secretary of State Rusk for negotiations with the French. Among the topics which the US representatives should not discuss are missile sharing and a common Western nuclear force.

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

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TELEPHONE MESSAGE FROM MR. KOHLER  
TO MESSRS. NITZE AND GILPATRIC

March 9, 1962

The Secretary has authorized me to say that:

(1) The US Government should not discuss with the French provision of missiles, missile components or missile technology which would be helpful to the French in developing a nuclear delivery missile capability even if the missiles, missile components and missile technology were ostensibly being sought for non-nuclear purposes.

(2) The US Government should not discuss with the French Government the possibility of these two governments directing their representatives to meet bilaterally to begin working out the problems connected with a common Western nuclear force.

(3) The Secretary understands that this may endanger the success of the Lavaud visit and prevent consummation of an arrangement with the French which would give us balance of payments relief. He believes that the larger objectives of our alliance policy outweigh these considerations and that even the limited steps proposed above would place these larger objectives in jeopardy since they would be read by the French and other countries as a clear sign that we were changing course.

cc: Mr. Bundy  
 Mr. Ball  
 Mr. Gilpatric  
 Mr. Nitze

*Just as  
 copy and*

*Basic Policy*

*W. C. Sullivan*