

**April 15, 1971**

**Memorandum from Henry A. Kissinger to Melvin R. Laird and William P. Rogers, 'Military Cooperation with France, NSDM's 103 and 104'**

**Citation:**

"Memorandum from Henry A. Kissinger to Melvin R. Laird and William P. Rogers, 'Military Cooperation with France, NSDM's 103 and 104'", April 15, 1971, Wilson Center Digital Archive, Nixon Presidential Library and Museum, National Security Council Files (NSCF), box 678, France vol. VIII, Apr-Dec 1971. Obtained and contributed by William Burr and included in NPIHP Research Update #2.

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**Summary:**

Kissinger sends a follow up memorandum to the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense regarding NSDM 103 and 104, on military assistance to the French nuclear program. Kissinger reiterates the classified nature of these decisions to offer aid and instructs them to inform the French "as soon as possible." They must also prepare guidelines for use in the event that the assistance becomes public.

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
 WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET/SENSITIVE

April 15, 1971

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Secretary of State  
 The Secretary of Defense

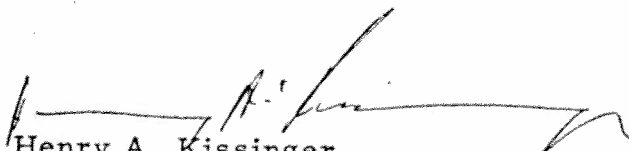
SUBJECT: Military Cooperation with France  
 NSDM's 103 and 104

The sensitive nature of the subjects treated in NSDM's 103 and 104, requires that they be handled on a highly classified and restricted basis. Discussion of these decisions shall not be undertaken with the Congress without full coordination by the USC and after White House clearance.

The President has directed that the decisions outlined in NSDM's 103 and 104 be communicated to the French as soon as possible. The Department of State shall inform the French government of our decision on advanced computers as soon as the Under Secretaries Committee has reported on an agreed redefinition of advanced computers and has received White House approval. The Secretary of Defense is requested to inform the French government immediately of our willingness to continue discussions concerning assistance to the French ballistic missile program, and in coordination with the Secretary of State and the Chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission inform the French Government of our willingness to reopen discussions in the field of nuclear safety.

The USC should prepare recommended press guidance for use in the event that these issues become public.

For the purpose of dealing with NSDM's 103 and 104 the USC should include solely those agencies directly concerned.

  
 Henry A. Kissinger

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