

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Memo For 9 Apr
Wren Scarlett

Brent: Should we
proceed as indicated
in the underlined
portion, page 2?

(w)

General -
any distribution?
Yes _____ No _____

"if yes" _____

Lora = 4/11/74

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By [signature] NARA Date 5/11/01

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301



1 April 1973⁴

*John -
classified
with Summary*

*SCUWROST
MCFARLANE*

MEMORANDUM FOR MAJOR GENERAL WICKHAM

SUBJECT: Nuclear Safety Talks with France (TS)

This memorandum is in response to your request for a brief status of our nuclear safety talks with the French and our proposal for continuation of those talks on a low profile without any new initiatives.

These talks were authorized by NSDM 104 and over the past two years four such meetings have been held, two in Paris and two in Washington, with the most recent being here during late January 1974. The talks have centered on general principles of nuclear safety, operational nuclear safety procedures and technical aspects of nuclear warhead safety. Nontechnical subjects have included security of weapons, selection and training of weapons personnel and some private discussions concerning command and control arrangements. All subjects have been covered without reference to Restricted Data or Formerly Restricted Data information.

At the conclusion of the last meeting, the leader of the French delegation, Engineer General Baron, indicated that they wished to continue the talks and proposed some avenues for expansion. He said at that time that he would send us a letter outlining his proposals but he has not yet done so.

It is my intention to write to Baron within the next month acknowledging his thank you letter of February 15, sending him some material discussed during the January meeting and mentioning his suggestion for a fifth meeting during the fall. I will propose subject matter which logically follows that already discussed such as quality assurance principles, high explosive technology, designs for abnormal mechanical and electrical environments and criticality of weapon arrays. I will suggest also a continuation of subgroup meetings between experts in plutonium

(W)

(W)

TL

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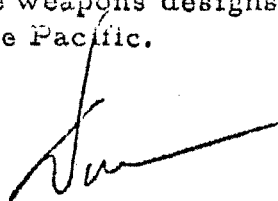
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dispersal and analysis methods. The clear inference will be that discussion of new subjects will not be started at this time and that the previously used method of concurrent plenary and subgroup talks is desired. Is this direction consistent with the Secretary's desires? ✓

The subjects suggested by the French for expansion of the talks are mainly of an operational nature. They are particularly interested in furthering discussion of military personnel training and also arrangements for non-interference between strategic submarines. Although we shall not broach these subjects during the next round of talks, would it seem appropriate to remain sensitive for any specific request of this type?

As a related matter, you should be aware that the Defense Nuclear Agency is mounting an effort to monitor the weapons designs and effects during the coming French test series in the Pacific.



D. R. Cotter
Assistant to the Secretary
of Defense (Atomic Energy)

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