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Stoel's views on how best to proceed. The matter
is an extremely sensitive one and should be handled as
closely as possible.

American Embassy, The Hague

Minister van der Stoel concurred in the desirability
of keeping the matter as confidential as possible
and in the need for such protection. He
recommended that protection of these devices should

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

PARTICIPANTS: Max van der Stoel, Foreign Minister
Kingdon Gould, Jr., American Ambassador

DATE & PLACE: July 1, 1974; Foreign Office

SUBJECT: Retrieval of Nuclear Weapons

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As the final item of my conversation with van der
Stoel on July 1, I took up with him privately the
desire of the US to develop contingency plans in the
event that a nuclear device is stolen in the Nether-
lands or having been stolen elsewhere is moving
towards or within Netherlands territory or territorial
waters. I prefaced my remarks by saying that the
United States had no knowledge whatsoever that such
a situation is threatened. However, given the nature
of terrorism today, such a possibility was conceivable
and the US felt that contingency plans should there-
fore be prepared.

Such plans should be negotiated between technical
experts but before beginning such discussions we wanted
to get the endorsement of the GON to so proceed.
Accordingly, I had earlier approached Minister Vredeling
as the Ministry of Defense seemed to be the logical
starting ground. Mr. Vredeling, however, felt that
several other Ministries might be involved, including
the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He had also suggested
that I contact the Prime Minister directly on the issue.

Since I did not want to bother the Prime Minister
needlessly, I first wanted to get Minister van der

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Page 2

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Stoel's views on how best to proceed. The matter was an extremely sensitive one and should be handled as closely as possible.

Minister van der Stoel concurred in the desirability of keeping the matter held as closely as possible and in the need for such contingency planning. He recommended that protection of these devices should be increased to preclude insofar as possible any theft. The Minister said he saw no present need for me to contact the Prime Minister's office, and that in his judgment the ideal person to evaluate the overall situation from the Dutch point of view was Mr. van der Valk, head of the NATO Section of the Foreign Ministry. By coincidence, Mr. van der Valk was his next scheduled appointment, and if I concurred, he would take it up with him.

I responded that this seemed the logical next step and I asked the Minister if he would advise van der Valk to contact Mr. Tanagy who was fully apprised of the situation.

Kingdon Gould, Jr.

...with him privately the event that a nuclear device is stolen in the Netherlands or having been stolen elsewhere is moving across or within Netherlands territorial waters. I prefaced my remarks by saying that the United States had no knowledge whatsoever that such a situation is threatened. However, given the nature of terrorism today such a possibility was conceivable and the US felt that contingency plans should therefore be prepared.

Such plans should be negotiated between technical KG/bw but before beginning such discussions we wanted to get the endorsement of the EON to so proceed. Accordingly, I had earlier approached Minister Vredeling as the Ministry of Defense seemed to be the logical starting ground. Mr. Vredeling, however, felt that several other Ministries might be involved, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He had also suggested that I contact the Prime Minister directly on the issue.

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