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Authority WMD 969000

By JP NARA Date 6/27/08

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Department of State
TELEGRAM
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ACTION SS 70

INFO MM 01, /071 W

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P R 311623Z JAN 68
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6863
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON 2379
AMEMBASSY PARIS 2825
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW 832
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS 1304
AMEMBASSY ROME 952
AMEMBASSY VIENNA 241
USMISSION NATO 359
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USUN NEW YORK 171

S E C R E T BONN 7812

LIMDIS

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PAGE 2 RUFHOL 7812 S E C R E T
REF: BONN 7687, BONN 7570, BONN 7557 (NOTAL)

SUBJ: NPT: HESITATIONS OVER FRG TACTICS

1. A MEMBER OF THE FONOFF DISARMAMENT SECTION HAS TOLD US IN STRICTEST CONFIDENCE THAT "SLIGHT DIFFERENCES" HAVE ARISEN SINCE LAST WEEK'S NATIONAL DEFENSE COUNCIL MEETING BETWEEN BRANDT AND KIESINGER OVER NPT TACTICS. BOTH ARE EVIDENTLY AGREED THAT THE FRG SHOULD SOON BEGIN TO PREPARE GERMAN PUBLIC OPINION TO ACCEPT NPT IN ORDER TO ENABLE THE GOVERNMENT TO SIGN AND EVENTUALLY TO

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RATIFY THE TREATY. KIESINGER BELIEVES, HOWEVER, THAT THIS "RE-EDUCATION PROCESS" SHOULD NOT BE STARTED UNTIL THE FRG IS ASSURED THAT ITS REMAINING CONCERNS, PARTICULARLY AS REGARDS FLEXIBILITY, WILL BE MET. BRANDT, ON THE OTHER HAND, IS CONCERNED THAT PUTTING UP A TOUGH FRONT TO THE END MAY LEAD THE FRG INTO THE FALSE POSITION OF SEEMING TO OPPOSE NPT, WHICH HE AND KIESINGER HAVE DECIDED TO AVOID. WE GATHER THAT BRANDT IS THEREFORE TRYING TO PERSUADE THE CHANCELLOR TO START TAKING A SOFTER LINE GENERALLY, EVEN WHILE THE FINAL ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNDER WAY.

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2. AS A RESULT OF THESE MISGIVINGS, THE "RATHER LONG AND LEGALISTIC" DEMARCHE KNAPPSTEIN WAS TO HAVE MADE IN WASHINGTON (REFTELS) HAS NOT BEEN AUTHORIZED. INSTEAD, BRANDT HOPES TO BE ABLE TO SEND A MUCH SHORTER AND MORE FORTHCOMING LETTER TO THE SECRETARY, WHICH WOULD WARMLY WELCOME THE TABLING OF THE TREATY AND BRIEFLY BUT FIRMLY MAKE THE MAIN POINTS, INCLUDING FLEXIBILITY, WHICH STILL CONCERN THE GERMANS. WE GATHER THAT FINAL AGREEMENT ON THIS LETTER, HOWEVER, HAS NOT YET BEEN REACHED.
MCGHEE

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