

~~S/S Pond~~

Cleared by Mr. Fried per ACaubet to S/S-Along 6/19/68.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON

June 11, 1968

EUR/Waller informed by S/S-RShepard 6/19

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Subject: Reaffirmation of NATO at Time of Non-proliferation Treaty Signing

Recommendation:

That you approve the enclosed scenario for use in responding to a German request for reaffirmation of United States commitments to the North Atlantic Treaty at the time of signing the Non-proliferation Treaty.

Approve Disapprove

Discussion:

In their consideration of the Non-proliferation Treaty, the Germans have seen a possible risk to their security from the fact that the Treaty, as drafted, could outlast the North Atlantic Treaty. They fear that this might some day deprive them of the United States nuclear guarantee at a time when they would not be able to develop effective alternate means of deterring a nuclear attack. Some months ago, they suggested that you deal with this problem by making an appropriate statement of United States commitment to the defense of Europe, when the Non-proliferation Treaty is opened for signature.

In a letter of March 30, Under Secretary Rostow proposed in return that the United States reaffirm its commitment to the North Atlantic Treaty at time of signing. He also proposed that those NATO members wishing to do so could make clear that their adherence to the Non-proliferation Treaty under current world conditions was made possible by their confidence in the North Atlantic Treaty. Our thinking was that these

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latter statements should be made in the North Atlantic Council forum. The Germans responded in a memorandum (enclosed) which sets forth their views on the way in which this proposal should be implemented.

We have now attempted to prepare a scenario for an oral presentation that would be both responsive to the Germans and compatible with our own interests. If you concur, this scenario would indicate, among other things, your willingness to include in your statement at the time the United States signs the Non-proliferation Treaty a reaffirmation of the continuing commitments of the United States under existing treaties of mutual security. We would envisage language for this purpose along the following lines:

"In welcoming the Non-proliferation Treaty, I wish to reaffirm that the United States remains fully committed to fulfilling its obligations under existing treaties of mutual security. Such arrangements have provided a significant measure of security for the United States and other parties to these treaties. They have created a degree of stability in an often unstable world."

A statement of this kind on your part would be useful in gaining German adherence to the Non-proliferation Treaty. It would also reassure our other allies in Europe and elsewhere that the Treaty in no way affects our existing security arrangements.

Dean Rusk

Dean Rusk

S/S

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Enclosures:

1. Suggested Scenario
2. Rostow Letter
3. German Scenario

EUR/GER:HSMalin:hmo
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Clearance:

GER - Mr. Puhan