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Deliver Burgess 8:00 am November 9.

POLTO 653

Deptel 848 to USUN rptd info TOPOL 641 confirms US decision abstain on Irish resolution. Department repeating for your background info USUN 1209 and copy Irish resolution as tabled at UN.

Department disturbed over failure British and some other NATO allies fully appreciate restrictive implications Irish resolution could have on possible future developments within NATO and on future disarmament negotiations. You ~~are~~ therefore ~~requested~~ ^{should} consult within NAC Wednesday November 9 to explain US position and to urge NATO governments give most thoughtful consideration US views and desirability presenting unified and consistent positions on this resolution at UN.

You should draw on following points, some of which will form essence of US comments in debate on this item at UN:

~~Irish resolution is a product of the spirit of Irish resolution certainly as conceived by its originators and as broadly considered at UN. It is that resolution.~~

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RM/R

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LWS
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1. It is true that the Irish resolution speaks only of "relinquishing to any nation not possessing them control of" nuclear weapons and this would not be strictly inconsistent with development possible future NATO sharing arrangements. However, US believes that this distinction is artificial and would not justify our later interpretation of the resolution as being consistent with possible future expansion stockpile arrangements/^{OR} other steps strengthen NATO deterrent capability. FYI. UK appears to be relying upon this distinction in order to justify its own vote in favor. END FYI.

2. US will emphasize in explanation of vote at UN that it opposes proliferation independent national nuclear capabilities and ownership, that under our public laws no nuclear weapons are transferred to any other country, and that we do not transfer information which might assist any other country not already having a substantial capability in this field to design or manufacture atomic weapons.

3. Despite this basic US position and our appreciation of motivation, concern and objectives underlying Irish resolution we continue to believe that problem to which Irish resolution addresses itself is, at bottom, a problem of nuclear disarmament. While passage Irish resolution would constitute nothing more than GA recommendation, we believe it highly undesirable to undertake implied moral commitments of this nature which, without time limits, would impose limitations on ability Free World States in future to take steps which ~~we~~

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we might regard as necessary for up-to-date individual or collective self defense. Furthermore since obligation is essentially uncontrollable - although this is not major point - we would have no assurance that other States were not themselves acting inconsistently with GA recommendation.

4. Declaratory approach implicit in Irish resolution would constitute precedent which, if applied in disarmament areas, could undermine Western position on indispensability effective controls.

5. Point can also be made that to extent which "nth country" problem is cause of concern to Soviets adoption of resolution such as Irish (particularly with Western support) would reduce pressure on Soviets to agree to meaningful disarmament measures, such as cutoff nuclear production, to cope with this problem.

6. We are aware a number of NATO dels to UN appear ready support Irish resolution. Object above instruction to ensure greatest possible alignment NATO members with US abstention and members should be urged support US position. In any case discussion should result in broadest possible consistency statements to be made by governments in debate on this item. In particular, other NATO governments should be willing support US statement as to validity nuclear weapons deterrent as part collective security requirement in accordance NATO Heads of Government decision December 1957.

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