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British informed Dept today they have reconsidered their position on Irish resolution re non-dissemination nuclear weapons and have now decided to abstain. British gave as major factor their decision concern that possible split in votes of NATO powers would give impression to world of policy split. Australians informed us they will also abstain and have exercised their influence on UK to do same.

British as of now have informed only US and Irish of their decision and UK Embassy not aware when or if British will reveal their position prior to actual vote on Irish resolution.

Since UK position may influence votes on this issue, request USUN ask British if possible for them now make their position more generally known.

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11-16-60

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