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FROM: Paris

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TO: Secretary of State

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NO: POLTO 473, October 11, 9 p.m.

Handwritten signatures and initials

MESSAGE CENTER

PRIORITY

ACTION DEPARTMENT POLTO 473; INFORMATION USUN PRIORITY
POLTO 22, LONDON POLTO 105, DUBLIN POLTO 1

POUCHED ALL OTHER NATO CAPITALS POLTO UNNUMBERED

NAC meeting, October 11 -- Irish resolution nuclear weapons.

Pursuant instructions, US representative said US prepared vote for Irish resolution in UNGA if amendments noted TOPOL 519 accepted giving reasons for decision per TOPOL 471 and asking support other NATO Governments. US statement, which circulated (text being pouched), sought comments on possibility making interpretive statement during UNGA debate (TOPOL 518). UK followed with indication support for Irish resolution with proposed amendments but in absence instructions declined comment on interpretive statement.

Stikker, Belgium and Netherlands reflected deep concern over what they considered basic contradiction between acceptance commitment in Irish resolution and development NATO nuclear strength. De Staercke said commitment affected not only US, which would be committed not relinquish nuclear weapons, but, more importantly, those non-nuclear NATO countries would be committing themselves not accept them. This would be contrary to various current NATO nuclear programs and would have great effect in European countries. Netherlands supported Belgium and Stikker, pointing out

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NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL	<i>Jameson Goodby</i>	DATE OF ACTION	
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-2- POLTO 473, October 11, 9 p.m. From Paris

commitment taken by voting for Irish resolution would control over US interpretive statement since commitment alone would be binding in UN US representative's explanation (TOPOL 499) that language Irish resolution pertained to national and not multinational force did not diminish feeling basic contradiction existed.

Stikker indicated that while US might so interpret its commitment in voting for Irish resolution, felt nevertheless commitment would affect NATO strength. Stated Council must seriously study problem and requested PERM REPS secure Governments' views.

After meeting, Gregh pointed out wording of resolution could and probably would be stretched by Soviets to cover delivery systems as well as warheads.

Comment: Strong concern reflected here, which goes to essence of NATO defense effort, strongly argues for delay in committing ourselves to Irish resolution.

DURBROW

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