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AMERICAN EMBASSY

Paris, 20 December 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR GERARD SMITH

This morning, the Ambassador gave me a full account of his meeting with Bourges-Manoury as reported in his telegram to the Department of yesterday (3058, December 19). He amplified one point, only summarily referred to in the telegram, and asked me to pass it on to you. In referring to the "change in French attitude", Bourges stated that this includes a new unanimity among virtually all significant political elements on the issue of going ahead with production of nuclear weapons. The Ambassador took this to mean that Mollet no longer holds to his declarations (such as those made in the Asemblée Nationale in the course of the Euratom debates) that his party and he personally would make every effort to keep France from exercising the liberty to produce weapons reserved by France in connection with the Euratom negotiations. The Ambassador feels that Bourges' observation, although made in a casual way, was intended as a notice of France's arrival at a firm position on this most important issue. He thinks that the possibility is not to be entirely discounted that this position may be changed with changed political circumstances and a new government. Granting such a possibility, he nevertheless regards our chances of influencing France to forego production of nuclear weapons by offering special training to her military or even by giving custody of weapons produced by us as greatly reduced as a result of this crystallization of French opinion.

Max Isenbergh

Max Isenbergh

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SPECIAL ASSISTANT TO THE SECRETARY
S/AE

DEC 26 1956

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