

**June 11, 1963**

**A.A. Wells, Director of Office of International Affairs,  
AEC, to Dr. Ragnar Rollefson, Director, Office of  
International Scientific Affairs, 'Reported  
Franco-German Cooperation in Development of the  
French Gaseous Diffusion Efforts'**

**Citation:**

"A.A. Wells, Director of Office of International Affairs, AEC, to Dr. Ragnar Rollefson, Director, Office of International Scientific Affairs, 'Reported Franco-German Cooperation in Development of the French Gaseous Diffusion Efforts'", June 11, 1963, Wilson Center Digital Archive, NARA, RG 59, Subject-Numeric Files 1963, box 4158, AE 11-1. Contributed to NPIHP by Bill Burr. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/177765>

**Summary:**

In this memorandum, Wells reported on comments that West German Minister for Scientific Research Hans Lenz made during a meeting at the Atomic Energy Convention. Noting that West Germany had been holding talks with the French and EURATOM about building a reprocessing plant at Karlsruhe, Lenz "implied that this proposal quite likely had resulted in reports that Germany might be undertaking a cooperative program with France in the development of their gaseous diffusion plant at Pierrelatte." Lenz then reaffirmed West Germany's commitment to the 1955 Brussels Treaty pledge, declaring that West Germany would not initiate action to develop military applications of atomic energy.

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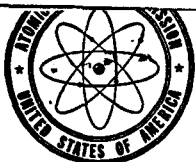
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UNITED STATES  
ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

JUN 11 1963

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. Ragnar Rollefson, Director  
Office of International Scientific Affairs  
Department of State

SUBJECT: REPORTED FRANCO-GERMAN COOPERATION IN DEVELOPMENT OF  
FRENCH GASEOUS DIFFUSION EFFORTS

*Atomic Energy Commission*

At the conclusion of the meeting with Minister Hans Lenz and his delegation on June 4, 1963, at the AEC's Washington Offices, the Minister said that he wanted to make some remarks in a very serious vein. He said that the Germans, Euratom and the French had discussed the possibility of constructing a plant to reprocess irradiated plutonium fuel elements at the German Karlsruhe Research Center. Under the proposal, Euratom would contribute one-third of the capital cost of the plant. He then implied that this proposal quite likely had resulted in reports that Germany might be undertaking a cooperative program with France in the development of their gaseous diffusion plant at Pierrelatte.

In order that there would be no misunderstanding concerning Germany's attitudes toward the French efforts, he wished to advise us that the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany and his Cabinet had often repeated that it was their desire to abide by the Treaties of 1955, under which the Federal Republic of Germany would refrain from the development of an independent military nuclear force. It was his desire to assure the Commission that Germany would not initiate any action to develop the military applications of atomic energy. It was also his desire to inform us that Germany would not take any action which would strengthen the French efforts in the development of a weapons capability and, accordingly, Germany had nothing to do with the Pierrelatte plant.

These remarks were completely voluntary and unrelated to any subject discussed up to that time. We responded that his remarks were appreciated and would be conveyed to appropriate officials. We also observed that reprocessing of irradiated fuel elements was a logical part of a program of civilian nuclear power.

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*A. A. Wells*  
A. A. Wells, Director  
Division of International Scientific Affairs

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