

**November 5, 1969**

**Memorandum of Conversation between Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Ambassador Helmut Roth, 'US-FRG Consultations on NPT,' with memorandum attached**

**Citation:**

"Memorandum of Conversation between Secretary of State William P. Rogers and Ambassador Helmut Roth, 'US-FRG Consultations on NPT,' with memorandum attached", November 5, 1969, Wilson Center Digital Archive, NARA, RG 59, Subject-Numeric Files 1967-1969, DEF 18-6. Contributed to NPIHP by Bill Burr.  
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**Summary:**

During these consultations on the NPT, the chief West German official, Helmut Roth, Chief of the Foreign Office's Disarmament Section, reviewed the progress of the talks with Secretary of State Rogers. Roth emphasized the importance of the "reaffirmation" of US security commitments "at a time when [the Federal Republic] was signing a renunciation of nuclear weapons for its own defense."

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20520

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SECRET Attachment

November 5, 1969

S - Mr. Okun

Attached is a memorandum of conversation between the Secretary and Ambassador Helmut Roth, Chief, Disarmament Section, German Foreign Office dated October 30, 1969.

For approval prior to distribution.

The Secretary's remarks are side-lined in red.

This memorandum was drafted in ACDA/DD by Mr. Farley.

*df*  
Theodore L. Eliot, Jr.  
Executive Secretary

Approved for distribution *HO*  
Approved for distribution as amended           

Attachment:

US-FRG Consultations on NPT

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ACDA/DD:PJFarley/jbk  
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UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY

17070

Memorandum of Conversation

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App'd in S 11/6/69

DATE: October 30, 1969  
Place: Office of the Secretary of State

SUBJECT: US-FRG Consultations on NPT

PARTICIPANTS: Ambassador Helmut Roth, Chief, Disarmament Section,  
German Foreign Office  
Secretary of State William P. Rogers  
Mr. Philip J. Farley, Deputy Director, ACDA

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In welcoming Ambassador Roth the Secretary recalled his several conversations with the Federal Chancellor when he was Foreign Minister. He recalled also meeting Mr. Scheel before he became Foreign Minister.

Ambassador Roth said that the new German Government intended to sign the Non-Proliferation Treaty as soon as possible. The consultations with U.S. officials this week were designed to obtain clarifications which the previous Cabinet had agreed were needed. It was expected that these current consultations would be the last that would be necessary with the United States before FRG signature. There would also be certain discussions with the French and Soviet Governments. Bundestag debate would then be held, hopefully for one day only, in the week of November 10. Signature would be as soon as possible thereafter.

The Secretary expressed appreciation for the attitude of the German Government on this matter. He summarized briefly his conversations with Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko in New York earlier this fall concerning the desirability of early

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U.S. and Soviet deposit of instruments of ratification. Ambassador Roth said that the German Government attached importance to such simultaneous deposit on the part of the two major nuclear powers. The Secretary stressed that this was our intent.

The Secretary asked whether any assurances were being sought from the United States in connection with German signature. Ambassador Roth referred to the German interest in assurances of U.S. support for continuing German membership on the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), together with amendment of the statute of the IAEA to this end. The Federal Government also wished reaffirmation of certain U.S. statements regarding U.S. commitment to the security of the Federal Republic and Berlin. The Secretary stressed that there was a good deal of sensitivity attached to statements regarding commitments. Even reaffirmation of existing commitments might be subject to criticism as implying an extension of commitments. The United States, of course, stood by its commitments. If it was necessary to restate this, formulation should be found along the lines of "restatement of existing treaty obligations". Ambassador Roth indicated understanding of this difficulty but emphasized the importance of this matter for his Government at a time when it was signing a renunciation of nuclear weapons for its own defense. Mr. Farley said that, in view of the complexity of this matter, there would be some time required for finding a mutually acceptable formulation, though this would be desirable by November 7 to meet the German schedule for signature. On the question of FRG IAEA membership on the Board of Governors, there was no new policy issue for the United States, which had previously supported German interests in this regard. Ambassador Roth expressed the hope that there might be an exchange of letters between the Secretary and the Minister incorporating this latter U.S. assurance. The Secretary suggested that after the FRG representatives had received confirmation of the U.S. assurance in the current talks, the Foreign Minister might write him if he wished in addition a letter from the Secretary.

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Ambassador Roth mentioned the German interest in bilateral consultations on SALT. The German Government was well satisfied with NATO consultations on SALT and recognized that NATO would be the primary center for such continuing consultations. The FRG had special interests in security and stability in Central Europe, however, and wished further opportunity at an appropriate time to explore in depth how the United States envisaged the relationship between SALT and such stability. While not turning down the German suggestion for consultations, the Secretary observed that SALT planning had been intensively discussed and expressed the view that it was doubtful much more productive could be achieved before the talks had begun and the direction in which they would move had been established.

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