

**June 16, 1972**

**Cable from Holsey G. Handyside to Ronald I. Spiers,  
'Guidance on Nuclear Weapons Safety Talks with  
French'**

**Citation:**

"Cable from Holsey G. Handyside to Ronald I. Spiers, 'Guidance on Nuclear Weapons Safety Talks with French'", June 16, 1972, Wilson Center Digital Archive, National Archives, Record Group 59, Subject-Numeric Files, 1970-73, Top Secret Files, box 1. AE 1-1 FR-US 1973. Obtained and contributed by William Burr and included in NPIHP Research Update #2. <https://digitalarchive.umd.edu/document/112404>

**Summary:**

Handyside sends guidance for discussions with British diplomat Clive Rose on US nuclear assistance to France. The cable outlines points of discussion and emphasizes the secret nature of these talks as "we do not plan to inform French of fact that we are keeping UK generally informed."

**Original Language:**

English

**Contents:**

Original Scan

DECLASSIFIED  
Authority NND969057  
By K.C. NARA Date 12/30/88

AE 1-1 FR-25

16 JUL 17 23 14 18 108498

FORM DS 322 (OCR)  
ZFF4 | 108498 | 162314Z JUN 72  
TOP SECRET

ROGERS  
XR DEF 12

London  
108498

DOD/ISA:RBARTHOLOMEW:PM/AE:HGHANDYSIDE:BPW  
6/16/72 EXT 21835  
PM:TRPICKERING

EUR/NE:MR. GEORGE {DRAFT}  
DOD/ATSD/AE:MR. WALSKE {DRAFT}  
S/S - MR. CURRAN

EUR/WE:MR. BEIGEL {DRAFT}  
DOD/ISA-EUR:MR. MORSE {DRAFT}

NODIS REVIEW  
Cat. A - Caption removed;  
transferred to O/TADRC  
Cat. B - Transferred to O/TADRC  
with additional access  
control by S/S  
Cat. C - Caption and body  
retained by S/S  
Reviewed by: Ambassador W. Witman, II  
Date: 8/27 1975

PRIORITY LONDON

DEF 12

~~NODIS~~

FOR GALLOWAY AND PM DIRECTOR RONALD SPIERS ONLY

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

SUBJECT: GUIDANCE ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS SAFETY TALKS  
WITH FRENCH

PM:TRP  
RB & HGH  
EUR/NE  
EUR/WE  
ATSD/AE  
DOD/ISA  
S/S RTC

1. SHOULD CLIVE ROSE AGAIN PROBE FOR INFORMATION ON  
ABOVE SUBJECT DURING SPIERS' SCHEDULED MEETING WITH HIM  
ON JUNE 19, WE RECOMMEND HE DRAW ON FOLLOWING POINTS IN  
RESPONDING:

A. THIS IS MATTER OF GREAT SENSITIVITY TO BOTH USG  
AND GOF AND EVEN KNOWLEDGE OF CONTACTS IS HIGHLY  
RESTRICTED WITHIN TWO GOVERNMENTS.

B. TALKS TOOK PLACE IN PARIS WEEK OF JUNE 5.

C. TALKS DEALT WITH DESCRIPTIONS BY BOTH SIDES OF  
ORGANIZATION, PROCEDURES AND SYSTEMS FOR NUCLEAR SAFETY.

D. EXCHANGES FELT TO BE USEFUL BY BOTH SIDES IN  
ENHANCING RESPECTIVE UNDERSTANDING ON COMMON PROBLEM.

E. FRENCH SHOWED FULL APPRECIATION OF IMPORTANCE OF  
SAFETY AND DEMONSTRATED A CONSERVATIVE REPEAT CONSERVATIVE  
APPROACH TO PROBLEM.

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F. POSSIBLE SECOND MEETING TENTATIVELY DISCUSSED  
OR AUTUMN.

2. BEGIN FYI: FOLLOWING IS FYI ONLY. AS YOU KNOW,  
ACCORD SIGNED WITH FRENCH ON NUCLEAR SAFETY EXCHANGES  
PROHIBITS TRANSFER OF INFORMATION TO THIRD PARTIES BY  
EITHER SIDE WITHOUT OTHER'S CONSENT. WE DO NOT PLAN TO  
INFORM FRENCH OF FACT THAT WE ARE KEEPING UK GENERALLY  
INFORMED AND ARE CONCERNED THAT FRENCH NOT GET WIND  
~~OF THIS FROM BRITISH.~~ HIGH  
OF THIS FROM BRITISH. HIGH-LEVEL FRENCH OFFICIAL ASKED  
MEMBER OF US DELEGATION IF US CONDUCTED SIMILAR SAFETY  
DISCUSSIONS WITH UK. RESPONSE GIVEN WAS THAT US AND UK  
EXCHANGED INFORMATION ON SAFETY IN CONTEXT OF ONGOING  
PROGRAMS OF COOPERATION UNDER 1958 AGREEMENT. WE WISH,  
TO EXTENT POSSIBLE, TO DISCOURAGE EXCESSIVE BRITISH  
PROBING ON THIS SUBJECT. END FYI.

3. WE ARE TAKING STEPS HERE WITH DOD AND AEC TO RE-  
ESTABLISH SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT BETWEEN USG AND HMG  
ON THIS SUBJECT, AND PLAN SPECIFICALLY TO UTILIZE  
GALLOWAY-ROSE CHANNEL FOR THIS PURPOSE.

4. EMBASSY REQUESTED INFORM SPIERS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE  
AFTER ARRIVAL OF RECEIPT THIS MESSAGE. EXEMPT HANDYSIDE,  
PM/AE {3} YY  
PM/AE {3} YY

TOP SECRET

ADVISOR 9/11/14