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DECLASSIFIED
Authority EO 12958
By JW NARA Date 8-30

Department of State

TELEGRAM

TOP SECRET 075

PAGE 01 BONN 00714 231613Z

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ACTION: SS-45

INFO: OCT 01 7046 W

R: 231545Z JAN 70
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO: SECSTATE WASHDC 6733

T O P S E C R E T BONN 714

EXDIS

SUBJECT: US-FRG NUCLEAR CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENTS

REF: STATE 196674, BONN 15625

1. THE AMBASSADOR, ACCOMPANIED BY THE DCM, CALLED ON SCHMIDT JANUARY 21. THE AMBASSADOR DID NOT ASK SCHMIDT DIRECTLY WHETHER HE HAD MENTIONED THE US-FRG ARRANGEMENTS TO HEALEY, BUT INSTEAD ASKED HIM WHETHER THE FRG WANTED THE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENT KEPT STRICTLY BETWEEN THE US AND THE FRG. SCHMIDT MADE NO REFERENCE TO HIS CONVERSATION WITH HEALEY, BUT FULLY AGREED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARRANGEMENT SHOULD REMAIN STRICTLY US AND GERMANY ONLY. IT WAS EVIDENT THAT SCHMIDT GOT THE POINT. SCHMIDT ALSO CONFIRMED THAT KNOWLEDGE OF THE BILATERAL ARRANGEMENTS SHOULD BE CONFINED TO A VERY SMALL CIRCLE OF TOP OFFICIALS IN EACH GOVERNMENT AND THAT THE AGREEMENT REMAINED VALID FOR THE BRANDT GOVERNMENT. NO FURTHER ACTION WAS NECESSARY TO ENSURE THIS.

2. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN SAHM OF THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE AND THE DCM, SAHM REVEALED THAT HE IS ALSO PRIVY TO THE US-FRG ARRANGEMENT. (THIS IS UNDERSTANDABLE SINCE SAHM IS THE TOP DEFENSE MAN IN THE CHANCELLOR'S OFFICE IN THE NEW GOVERNMENT.) SAHM SAID THAT HE WAS AWARE OF WHAT IS CALLED IN THE GERMAN GOVERNMENT "SCHMIDT'S INDISCRETION". SAHM SAID THAT THE EXPLANATION WAS THAT SCHMIDT HAD BEEN IN OFFICE ONLY THREE DAYS BEFORE MEETING HEALEY. HE HAD BEEN BRIEFED ON ALL THE MOST VITAL DEFENSE MATTERS DURING THOSE THREE DAYS, INCLUDING THE US-FRG CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENT. HE HAD, HOWEVER, RECEIVED ONLY A QUICK BRIEFING, AND THE IMPORTANT ASPECT OF KEEPING KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARRANGEMENT STRICTLY BILATERAL HAD NOT BEEN CLEAR IN SCHMIDT'S MIND. AS FURTHER BACK-

70 JAN 28 PM 5:27
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WHITE HOUSE
SITUATION ROOM

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GROUND SCHMIDT SAID THAT HEALEY HAD REFERRED TO THE US-FRG CONSULTATION AS JUSTIFICATION FOR A SIMILAR ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE BRITISH BUCCANEERS BEING INTRODUCED IN GERMANY. ACTUALLY, SAHM FELT, IT WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN NECESSARY FOR SCHMIDT TO HAVE REFERRED TO THE US-FRG ARRANGEMENT. SOME JUSTIFICATION COULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN FOR A US-FRG CONSULTATION ARRANGEMENT, SUCH AS THE POSSIBILITY (ADMITTEDLY THEORETICAL) THAT OTHER COUNTRIES LIKE THE FRENCH MIGHT CONCEIVABLY SOMEDAY INTRODUCE INDEPENDENT NUCLEAR WEAPONS INTO GERMANY.

3. SAHM ALSO CONFIRMED THAT THE FRG MOST STRONGLY DESIRES TO KEEP KNOWLEDGE OF THE ARRANGEMENT AS IS, I.E. PURELY US AND FRG. HE WONDERED, HOWEVER, WHETHER FOR REASONS OF GERMAN RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED KINGDOM, IT MIGHT NOT BE NECESSARY FOR THE US AND FRG TO FIND SOME MUTUALLY AGREED WAY TO INFORM THE BRITISH NOW THAT THEY HAVE KNOWLEDGE OF IT. THE DOM MADE NO COMMENT ON THIS LAST POINT, ASSUMING THAT WASHINGTON MIGHT HAVE RESERVATIONS ON SAHM'S SUGGESTION.

4. REQUEST GUIDANCE ON THIS LAST POINT.
RUSH

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