

TELEGRAM

Foreign Service of the
United States of America

OUTGOING

STATE DEPT DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW

Exempted, EO 12958, 25X

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IPS by K. CLARK-BOWNE Date: 11/3/00

Other Agency Action: _____

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Classification

Control: 589

Date: DEC. 13, 1961
2 AM

S/S-20

AMB-1
MIN-1
EF
PF

ACTION: SECS DATE WASHINGTON

SECTO 23 PRIORITY

INFO: Ambassy MOSCOW 180
Ambassy BONN 350
Ambassy LONDON 549
USCIB BERLIN 196

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Retain class'n Change / classify to _____

With concurrence of SMAT/ARR, FR, DSU

Declassify In part and excise as shown

EO 12356, Sec. 1.3 (a)

FPC/HDR by CL 4/27/55

Withdrawal No. 2-9

OES-4

LIMIT DISTRIBUTION:

Special quadripartite ministerial meeting called 9:45 this evening failed to reach agreement on common approach to negotiations. Session opened with circulation of text which had emerged from telecon President and de Gaulle. Text follows.

BEGIN TEXT:

The NATO Council approves the proposal according to which diplomatic contacts with the Soviet Union would be undertaken to pursue the aims which the West is following to preserve the peace of the world. The Council hopes that these contacts may serve to determine whether a basis might be found for negotiations.

END TEXT

In response to query from Secretary as to whether French now accepted idea that Ambassadorial Group would agree on line to be advanced through these

S:NAvelices

Drafted by:

MJHillenbrand:mh:all

Authenticated by:

Foy D. Kohler

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these diplomatic contacts, Couve said this was not part of agreement as he understood it. He further explained that contacts would not be established in common. This had not been approved. French stood where they were in September when first diplomatic contacts made by Secretary.

Horne queried whether, if text adopted by NATO as part its communique, would all Four subscribe to it. He assumed French diplomatic move would not be ruled out if this were thought to be a good thing. Couve agreed but indicated French could say in advance they were not going to make any diplomatic move. In response to Secretary's question as to how query in NAC as to who would undertake diplomatic contacts could be answered, Couve responded that it would be better if Americans said we would than if French said we would not. That would satisfy everybody. Secretary indicated it did not satisfy us unless there were quadripartite participation in contacts, that is, to provide basis agreed position of Four Western Powers.

Horne said he assumed Four would all continue prepare materials together for individual who would undertake diplomatic contacts. Couve commented that Ministers always come back to distinction between diplomatic contacts by all or by one or the other. Horne observed that if the contacts were

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were to be by one or the other it was all more important that preparation be agreed between Four. Couve said that this would amount to diplomatic contacts in common.

In response to Secretary's query as to whether France would vote for or against text in NAC tomorrow, Couve said they would vote for. This meant only that there were going to be diplomatic contacts aim of which would be to ascertain whether there were any basis for negotiations. Secretary said question arose whether person undertaking diplomatic contacts would be acting on basis of agreed Four-Power position or mediating between Moscow and Paris. Couve commented that this was not way to put question. Difficulties will be in Moscow. Home said his difficulty was that if Four wanted support in NATO there had to be some commitment, but there was no French commitment to participate or even to prepare position. Person undertaking explorations in Moscow must have agreed position on certain things such as question of contacts with GDR. Secretary asked whether if we say we will undertake diplomatic contacts, but only on basis of positions prepared in Ambassadorial Group, would French continue to participate in Ambassadorial Group. Couve said would continue to participate, but it would be a different matter if it were said that contacts were undertaken on behalf of all Governments.

This was

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This was basic question which Foreign Ministers had been turning around and around since yesterday.

At this point Ministers went into private conversation.

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