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M E M O R A N D U M

SKYBOLT AND POLARIS



A. SKYBOLT

In a desire to be of assistance in improving and extending the effective life of the V-Bomber force, the U.S., subject only to U.S. priorities, is prepared to provide SKYBOLT missiles -- minus warheads -- to the U.K. on a re-imbursable basis in 1965 or thereafter. Since SKYBOLT is still in the early stages of development, this offer is necessarily dependent on the successful and timely completion of its development program. Sales will be without any conditions as to use other than those contained in the usual Mutual Security military sales agreements.

B. POLARIS

As the U.K. is aware, the United States is offering at the current NATO Defense Ministers meeting to make mobile Polaris missiles -- minus warheads -- available from U.S. production to NATO countries in order to meet SACEUR's requirements for MRBMs. The U.S. is also offering to assist joint European production of Polaris if our preference for U.S. production proves unacceptable.

It does not appear appropriate to consider a bilateral understanding on Polaris until the problem of SACEUR's MRBM requirements has been satisfactorily disposed of in NATO.

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C. Scottish Ports

We welcome the assurance that, in the same spirit of cooperation, the U.K. would be agreeable in principle to making the necessary arrangements for U.S. Polaris tenders in Scottish ports.



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The United States Secretary of Defense and the Minister of Defense of Her Majesty's Government in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland express their determination that the two countries shall cooperate in the development of the SKYBOLT missile to permit it to be adopted both by the United States Air Force and the Royal Air Force.

Mr. Gates affirms the intention of the United States Government to make every reasonable effort to ensure the successful and timely completion of SKYBOLT development and the compatibility of the missile with Royal Air Force Mark II V-bombers; and agrees that Her Majesty's Government should have full access to all the necessary information on the project. Mr. Watkinson states that if the missile is successfully developed and is compatible with Mark II V-bombers Her Majesty's Government intends to place an order with the United States Government for about one hundred missiles and their associated equipment. The warheads would be provided by Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Gates reaffirms on behalf of the Government of the United States the sale of the SKYBOLT missile, minus warhead, to Her Majesty's Government shall be as outlined by President Eisenhower in his memorandum to Prime Minister Macmillan on 29 March 1960, as amended.

Mr. Gates welcomes Mr. Watkinson's offer to provide the services of selected scientific staff to maintain liaison with the U.S. development agency and to cooperate in the development program.

Mr. Gates and Mr. Watkinson authorize their staffs to proceed with the negotiation of a technical and financial agreement in accordance with the foregoing.

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