

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

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HAVE RECENTLY SHOWN IN NATO MIGHT PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PRODUCTIVE DISCUSSION ON THIS IMPORTANT TOPIC. SINCE SECRETARY SCHLESINGER WOULD BE SEEING FRENCH DEFENSE MINISTER BOURGES IMMEDIATELY AFTER HIS GERMAN VISIT, MINISTER LEBER'S VIEWS AS TO HOW BEST TO DISCUSS THIS WITH THE FRENCH WOULD BE PARTICULARLY USEFUL AND TIMELY.

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3. STUETZLE NOTED THAT THE QUESTION OF THIRD COUNTRY SALES WAS ONE OF THE MAIN PROBLEMS ARISING OUT OF STANDARDIZATION. FRANCE IN PARTICULAR DEPENDS UPON SUCH SALES AS AN IMPORTANT FAVORABLE ELEMENT IN ITS BALANCE OF TRADE. STUETZLE REMARKED THAT THIS ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM WAS NOT IMPORTANT FOR THE FRG TODAY. HOWEVER, THE WHOLE QUESTION OF SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO NON-NATO COUNTRIES WAS ONE WHICH THE FRG WAS GOING TO HAVE TO RESTUDY.

4. STUETZLE TOOK THE OCCASION TO REITERATE THE FRG'S LONG STANDING POSITION THAT STANDARDIZATION MUST BE A TWO WAY STREET. EMBOFFS REMARKED THAT THE AMERICAN DECISION TO BUY THE ROLAND ANTI-AIR SYSTEM AND OUR WILLINGNESS TO ALLOW THE LEOPARD TWO TO COMPETE WITH THE XM-1 TANK INDICATED THAT THE US APPRECIATED THIS FRG POSITION. IN REPLY STUETZLE SAID THAT THERE WERE GRUMBLINGS AMONG FRG MILITARY OFFICERS CONCERNING HOW THE TANK-COMPETITION WAS PROGRESSING, ALTHOUGH HE, STUETZLE-WAS NOT FAMILIAR WITH THE DETAILS.

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Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
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OSD 3.3(b)(1)(6)

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8. IN DISCUSSING THE RELATIONSHIP OF THE EUROGROUP TO THE BROADER TOPIC OF NATO STANDARDIZATION, STUETZLE EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG REMAINED A FIRM SUPPORTER OF THE EUROGROUP. THE FRG IS NOT WILLING TO ABANDON OR MODIFY THAT ORGANIZATION "AS LONG AS NO OTHER REASONABLE WAY EXISTS." HOWEVER, STUETZLE ADDED, IF THE FRENCH "WILL DISCOVER THEIR OWN INTEREST," THE FRG "MIGHT LOOK TO OTHER WAYS." IN THIS CONNECTION STUETZLE REFERRED TO A CONVERSATION BETWEEN FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES AND MINISTER LEBER. THE FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER, FOR HIS PART, HAD LAMENTED THAT THE EUROGROUP WAS AN EXISTING ORGANIZATION. ACCORDING TO SAUVAGNARGUES, THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM WITH FRENCH MEMBERSHIP IF THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE EUROGROUP HAD BEEN OR WERE TO BE A FRENCH INITIATIVE. DURING

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Office of the Secretary of Defense 5 U.S.C. §552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 08 Nov 2018 Authority: EO 13526⁺
Declassify: _____ Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: X
Reason: 3.3(b)(1)(6)
MDR: 18 -M- 2075

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Authority: EO 13526
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