STATE 200554

NODIS

JOINT STATE/DEFENSE MESSAGE

EYES ONLY AMBASSADOR AND MINISTER FESSENDEN

SUBJ: US FRG Nuclear Consultation

REF: Bonn 15148: State 196674

1. Our basic concept on the nuclear consultation arrangement is that once concluded it continues in effect even though governments may change either in US or FRG. At the same time we have been prepared to be responsive to desire by the other party -- in this case the FRG -- to reaffirm arrangements upon a change of government in either country.

2. Moreover, US-FRG understanding is essentially an undertaking by the US Government to do certain things
before authorizing selective release of nuclear weapons in the area specified by the exchange of letters.

3. For above reasons we see no need for US initiative in suggesting reaffirmation of arrangement. On the other hand if Germans take initiative and request reaffirmation we would act promptly on such request.

4. Since Schmidt's reference to QUOTE arrangements with the Americans UNQUOTE to Healey has precipitated some questions to us from the British, you should move ahead with the action requested in State 196674 soonest.

GP-1

END