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Date: December 15, 1960
 Time: 10:30 a.m.
 Place: Quai d'Orsay

Participants: Sir Frederick Hoyer Millar, U.K. Permanent Under Secretary
 Livingston T. Merchant, Under Secretary for Political Affairs

Subject: The New U.S. Administration and U.S. Nuclear Arrangements with the U.K.

Sir Derick had told me yesterday he was anxious to see me for five minutes on an important matter. The opportunity arose before our meeting with the French this morning. Sir Derick said that the Prime Minister was concerned as to how best to assure reaffirmation by the new President of assurances given to the British Government during the past 8 years concerning the use of nuclear weapons. He said that for obvious reasons these assurances were of great importance to the British Government. In this connection he mentioned several, including the Eisenhower-Eden understanding, the Dean-Murphy agreement, and the recent reaffirmation by President Eisenhower of the general understanding at the time of the Holy Loch agreement providing facilities for our Polaris submarines.

Sir Derick said that Ambassador Caccia had suggested (and London was inclined to agree) that sometime prior to January 20 Harold Macmillan send to President Eisenhower a private message referring to specific agreements and assurances with the request that prior to leaving office the President inform the President-elect of these engagements. The Prime Minister then would send a message to Mr. Kennedy shortly after his inauguration referring to these engagements and in effect asking for confirmation that they remain in force.

I said that this seemed to me a sensible approach to the matter. Sir Derick indicated that this could be expected to be the procedure which the Prime Minister would follow.

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