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DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Approved in S
12/13/63

Memorandum of Conversation

Part 8 of 8

DATE: December 4, 1963
The Secretary's Office
Time: 12:00 noon

SUBJECT: Proliferation of Nuclear Capability

Canadian Side

PARTICIPANTS: Paul Martin, Secretary of State for External Affairs 10598
Hedard Robichaud, Minister of Fisheries
Marcel Cadieux, Deputy Under Secretary of State for External Affairs
Charles S. A. Ritchie, Canadian Ambassador
H. Basil Robinson, Minister, Canadian Embassy

U.S. Side

COPIES TO: The Secretary
William R. Tyler, Assistant Secretary, EUR
Willis C. Armstrong, Director, BNA

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Mr. Martin said that recently Canada had signed an agreement on atomic energy with India, after a year and one-half of discussion. He said he was aware of the fact that the United States had sold a reactor to India and the Canadian agreement might have been of concern to the United States. He said Canada had shown the agreement to both the United States and United Kingdom, and had not received objections from either, but now was in some trouble with IAEA. The Agency feels that perhaps Canada has not lived up to the standards for safeguards which should be met. This raises a serious question in terms of Indian-Pakistan relations. He said he had heard now that the French were interested in the matter, and he wondered if Couve de Murville had mentioned it during his last visit. The Secretary said this had not been mentioned by the French, and that the French generally have a casual attitude on such matters.

The Secretary went on to say that, with respect to non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, the present nuclear powers are pursuing in fact a common policy, even though they are not able to agree formally. He said the Soviets are worried about the MLF, but they have no way of knowing that this does not involve dissemination. Our interest in a formal agreement on non-proliferation is about 95% because of Communist China. If we could not get China in such an agreement, we probably could not obtain ratification in the United States. If China becomes a nuclear power serious questions will be raised for India.

Mr. Martin said that he had rather strong views on this matter, in view of the Indian problem, and might talk later to the Secretary about the matter.

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Authority NND979531
BY JW DATE 4-13-97

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- 2 -

The Secretary said he understood that the Swedes and Swiss had indicated their own reservations at the time of signing the Test Ban Treaty. Mr. Martin said there were people in India, although perhaps not in the present government, who will wish to emulate the Chinese Communists if China has the bomb.

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