

Memorandum of Conversation XR 856.394

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3/24/60

SUBJECT: Manufacture and Export of Ultra-Centrifuge Equipment

PARTICIPANTS: The Secretary
Under Secretary Dillon
Under Secretary Merchant
Ambassador Dowling
Counselor Achilles
Assistant Secretary Kohler
Assistant Secretary Berding
Mr. Hillenbrand, GER
Mr. Vigderman, GER
Mr. McKiernan, GER/GPA
Mr. Miller, GER
Mrs. Lejins, LS

Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano
Ambassador Greve
Mr. Felix von Eckardt
Dr. Karl Carstens
Mr. Frans Krapf
Dr. Frans-Josef Bach
Mr. Peter Limbourg
Mr. Karl-Guenther von Hase
Mr. Heins Weber
Mr. Hermann Kusterer

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Secretary Herter informed Foreign Minister von Brentano that we had heard a short time ago that German and Dutch manufacturers have learned of a centrifugal process for enriching uranium. We ourselves had tried this process and found it unwieldy, but it did permit the making of enriched uranium in large quantities with a small amount of equipment. Such equipment was now being manufactured and exported from Germany as a normal commercial operation. There was obviously a danger that it might be used by other countries for the manufacture of nuclear weapons. The German Embassy could obtain further details from the Atomic Energy Commission.

Foreign Minister von Brentano said he was glad to be informed about this development

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development, of which he had been unaware, and that the Federal German Government would do all it could to avoid the export of such equipment. He believed that the matter might be one in which EURATOM controls would apply.

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