

OUTGOING MESSAGE

COMINT

Approved For Release 2001/08/08 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100130019-4

CHANNELS

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CLASSIFICATION

SECRET NED/NDA/CD

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

CIA/OCT/WH12WH

DATE-TIME GROUP

CITE

740606

MESSAGE REFERENCE NUMBER

CIA/WHSS

SOURCE REF:

1		4		7		10
2		5		8		11
3		6		9		12

TO: IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAITH.

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS INVOLVED

ITEM NO: WH-6

DATE: 6 JUNE 1974

SUBJECT: FRENCH STRATEGIC SUBMARINE PROGRAM

REF : AP TICKER 128, 6 JUN 74, UNCLAS

ACCORDING TO AN ARTICLE IN TODAY'S GUARDIAN, FRANCE WILL CONVERT HER STRATEGIC SUBMARINE MISSILE FORCE TO CARRY "HYDROGEN WARHEADS." THE NEWSPAPER SAID THE CONVERSION WOULD BE CARRIED OUT WITHIN 18 TO 24 MONTHS AND THAT THE THERMONUCLEAR WARHEADS WOULD HAVE A YIELD OF ABOUT ONE MEGATON.

THE FRENCH NOW HAVE TWO NUCLEAR-POWERED SUBMARINES OPERATIONAL AND BY 1978 THEY COULD HAVE SIX. CURRENTLY, FRENCH SUBMARINES CARRY 16 MISSILES THAT HAVE A RANGE OF 3,000 NAUTICAL MILES.

A FOLLOW-

UP MISSILE WITH GREATER RANGE AND ACCURACY IS SCHEDULED TO REPLACE

DATE:
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THE PRESENT ONE, BEGINNING LATER THIS YEAR OR EARLY NEXT YEAR. WITHIN TWO YEARS.

[REDACTED]

THIS SYSTEM WILL

SERVE AS FRANCE'S SUBMARINE BALLISTIC MISSILE DURING THE LATER HALF OF THE DECADE AND INTO THE EARLY 1980S. E-2 IMPDET-FH

(SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: OER, O EUR DIV AND NIO [REDACTED])

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25X1A

DATE: 1 JUL 78
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