

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DATE: APR 2001

17 April 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President
The White House

SUBJECT: French Atomic Energy Commission

1. My statement to you yesterday about a memorandum you had sent us may have been in error since I have not yet been able to locate the paper I had in mind. I may have been confused by an instruction which I received from our Director. In any event, we are pursuing, through [REDACTED] the matter you mentioned to me.

2. According to our understanding, the relationship of the CEA (French Atomic Energy Commission) to the French Government is as follows:

a. Minister Delegate - Supervision of all atomic matters in the French Government is entrusted to a Minister Delegate, who is specially appointed to the French Premier, to whom he is responsible. This Minister Delegate presides over the Atomic Energy Committee and coordinates the work of the various Ministries concerned with nuclear matters. The present Minister Delegate is Gaston Palewski.


b. Atomic Energy Committee - Under the Minister Delegate, this Committee defines the policy of the French Atomic Energy Commission in drawing up the program of research, manufacture and projects.

c. French Atomic Energy Commission (CEA) - The CEA is the functioning organization and, as such, is the chief architect and principal contractor of the French nuclear program. The CEA functions under an Administrator General and a High Commissioner. The Administrator General is in charge of administration and financial direction and the High Commissioner is in charge of scientific and technical direction. The High Commissioner is under the authority of the Atomic Energy Committee and his annual report is submitted to it for examination

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and approval. These posts are at present held by Pierre Couture and Francis Perrin, respectively.

3. Attached is an organizational chart which lists the principal officials of the CEA by organizational departments, as of 1 May 1962.


Richard Helms
Deputy Director (Plans)

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Attachment - 1

"XII - Organigramme et Composition des Comités,
des Conseils et des Commissions Consultatives
Auprès du C.E.A."

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