AEC Official Seeks Study On Bonn Role

An Atomic Energy Commissioner wants the Administration to explore ways to extend present arrangements for providing the West Germans with a larger nuclear role in Europe.

John G. Palfrey favors this approach over the creation of "a new force" such as the American-proposed multilateral nuclear force of mixedmanned ships carrying nuclear-tipped missiles.

Palfrey made his remarks at a joint meeting here of the American Industrial Forum and the American Nuclear Society and amplified on them yesterday.

In Palfrey's view, a personal one, "the pressures for obtaining a national (nuclear) capability in Germany will persist" as long as the Germans know there are missiles of medium range in Russia targeted on them, which the Germans cannot reach with the tactical range missiles they already possess under NATO arrangements.

Under existing NATO stockpile agreements. Palfrey explained, short-range missiles are sold to Germany and other NATO countries, "but the nuclear weapons which are provided remain under U.S. custody, and their use can be authorized only by the President."

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The Russians, said Palfrey, have not made these arrangements grounds for rejecting a treaty to halt the spread of nuclear weapons. For this reason, the AEC official suggested, an imaginative scheme for extending these arrangements might satisfy the Germans without further antagonizing the Russians, and pave the way for a nonproliferation treaty.

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