

# Brandt Asks U.S. Help In Peaceful Atom Use

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Willy Brandt, the Vice Chancellor and Foreign Minister of the new West German government, appealed to the United States yesterday for "technological cooperation" in the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The plea was the central point raised by Brandt in a round of talks with officials who included President Johnson, Vice President Hubert H. Humphrey and Secretary of State Dean Rusk.

Other issues raised were the Bonn government's recent moves to improve relations with the Soviet Union and the nations of Eastern Europe, the Kennedy Round of tariffs, foreign aid and NATO strategy and German purchases to off-

set the cost to the United States of maintaining troops in West Germany.

## 'Exchange of Views'

Spokesmen for both sides said the talks were "an exchange of views" rather than "negotiations." Brandt is the first member of the coalition government headed by Chancellor Kurt-Georg Kiesinger to visit the United States since it took office last Dec. 1.

The question of harnessing nuclear power for peaceful uses is crucial to the U.S. drive to negotiate a treaty to ban the spread of nuclear weapons. The Johnson Administration has maintained since last summer that precisely the same know-how is required to develop nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes, such as dam building, as is required to make nuclear weapons.

In this view, a non-proliferation treaty would have to bar the development of peaceful explosives as well as weapons in order to be effective.

## Worried Over Position

West Germany has maintained that it cannot afford to deprive itself of the technological "spin-off" which would result from research into nuclear explosives for peaceful purposes and still maintain its position as the world's third largest industrial power after the United States and the Soviet Union.

In expressing this view to Rusk, U.S. officials said, Brandt linked a narrowing of the nuclear technology gap with steps towards general disarmament. It was understood that this means that West Germany is unwilling to forgo nuclear research and technology while the nuclear powers continue to benefit from both.

U.S. officials said Secretary Rusk had made an effort to allay West Germany's "apprehensions" about the technology gap.

## Exchange of Experts

The U.S. assurances, it was

understood, will take the form of increased exchanges of atomic experts with West Germany. The purpose of these exchanges is to convince Bonn of the U.S. view that there is no technological gap deriving from Germany's lack of know-how in constructing nuclear explosives.

The United States has suggested that arrangements could be worked out by the present world nuclear powers to conduct nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes for the non-nuclear powers.

The major non-nuclear powers are already engaged in varying degrees of their own development of non-explosive uses of nuclear energy.

Despite the German objections, U.S. officials expressed satisfaction with the course of yesterday's talks. They suggested that the increasing possibility of negotiating a non-proliferation treaty is forcing the Germans—and others—to take a close look at what it would mean. One high Administration official characterized the German position as one of raising questions about the treaty rather than trying to obstruct it.

In Bonn, a West German government spokesman said Chancellor Kiesinger was thinking of taking part in an

international organization that would set off nuclear explosions for peaceful purposes, United Press International reported. It was not immediately known whether this was discussed during yesterday's talks with American officials.

## Policy With East

Brandt also described the new German government's policy of improving relations with Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. This has included the establishment of diplomatic relations with Rumania and the immediate prospect of establishing relations with Hungary.

U.S. sources said Rusk had expressed "interest and approval" in these moves. President Johnson, in a speech last Oct. 7, expounded a policy of "building bridges" between the United States and the Soviet Union and its allies.

Specifically, it was understood, the United States yesterday agreed to a German request to use its good offices with the Soviet Union and other countries to convince them of Bonn's sincere interest in a relaxation of tensions.

In a brief chat with newsmen as he was leaving the State Department, Brandt was asked for comment on a speech by Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin in London alleging that Nazism was again a threat in West Germany. Brandt said he had not seen the speech, but added:

"We had a rather aggressive German note (from the Soviets) a little more than a week ago. I think this is not very useful. We are not going to answer it in the same language.

## 'Stick to Conviction'

"We think that it's better to work for better relations between Germany and the Soviet Union. We will stick to that conviction.

"The Communist leaders in the other part of Germany (East Germany) do not like our activities in reducing tensions. Their whole existence is based on these tensions. And I wonder if the Soviet Union would continue to adhere to the same point of view as the East Germans in the long run."