

# U.S. Denies A-Sharing Is Ruled Out

11/26/66  
Decision on Bonn's  
Nuclear Role Still  
Open, Rusk Says

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Secretary of State Dean Rusk said yesterday that the United States "regards the problem of nuclear sharing" in the Atlantic Alliance "as major unfinished business."

His personally drafted statement, read to newsmen at the State Department, was designed to quash a report in the New York Times that the Johnson Administration had decided to ask West Germany to "forego indefinitely even nominal ownership of part of an allied nuclear weapons system" and to be content with improved consultation on nuclear strategy.

Rusk called the story "a misstatement of facts." He said the United States "has made no decision to foreclose a possible Atlantic-nuclear force or any other collective approach to the problem."

## 'Under Discussion'

Rusk said that "the development of an arrangement to provide participation for NATO non-nuclear nations, including the Federal Republic of Germany, in the management of nuclear power is under the most serious discussion among interested governments."

The story said that Dean Acheson had persuaded Rusk and Under Secretary George W. Ball to squelch the idea of nuclear sharing. But the former Secretary of State, appearing before a Senate subcommittee, declared the story "totally false." Acheson said he rejected the idea that he would be the "leader of a retreat" after so long having favored either the American-proposed Multilateral Nuclear Force (MLF) or the British-proposed Atlantic Nuclear

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Force (ANF) or indeed "all F's."

Rusk referred to a communique at the time West German Chancellor Erhard was in Washington last December in which he and President Johnson expressed hope that "arrangements could be worked out to assure members of the alliance not having nuclear weapons an appropriate share in nuclear defense."

## MLF Believed Dead

It has been widely assumed here that the MLF system was dead but that Mr. Johnson would not foreclose ANF or some other concept lest that drive the Germans to lessen their ties to Washington and increase them with either Paris or Moscow.

Nonetheless, many within the Johnson Administration would like to kill any idea of nuclear sharing with Germany. This includes some of those trying to reach a pact with the Soviets on nonproliferation of nuclear weapons.

In discussing the recent American decision to withdraw 15,000 troops from Germany, without having given Bonn advance notice of the figure, Acheson provided a description of the American Government that also applied to the nuclear sharing issue.

He called the troop affair "a boo-boo of the worst sort," adding that "we all have red



Associated Press

DEAN ACHESON

... warns the West

faces" but said that the Senators should remember that "the United States Government itself is an alliance of conflicting forces." In trying to discover the Government's position, as on the sharing issue, he said "it depends on what part of the dinosaur you tap."

"Don't believe anything until you get the President's signature," Acheson said, "this is apt to be authentic."

Acheson, who has been serving as a Government consultant

on NATO in recent weeks, said the President was trying to get the British and Germans together on nuclear sharing before he takes a position of his own.

But he said those two allies had been engaging in a "minuet" — the British of late withdrawing from their own idea as the Germans warmed up to it. Acheson added that he did not know whether the United States favored nuclear "hardware" for the Germans. He said that such a "hardware solution" and nuclear consultations through the so-called McNamara Committee were not mutually exclusive.

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara left yesterday for a London meeting of his group. German Defense Minister Kai-Uwe von Hassell will be there along with British, Italian and Turkish ministers. But American sources have said the meeting will concern the use and adequacy of tactical nuclear weapons in the alliance rather than the sharing-of-control issue.

One NATO leader, Danish Premier Jens Otto Krag, was in Washington yesterday discussing the alliance problem with the President. Krag said the French attitude presents "trouble, but it is not a catastrophe." He proposed to the President a "new initiative" but he declined to spell it out for newsmen.

## History of Treaty

Acheson, the architect of the NATO treaty nearly two decades ago, recounted its history before the Senate Government Operations subcommittee headed by Sen. Henry M. Jackson, (D-Wash.). He called NATO "the fire department of the Atlantic Alliance" and said that it was responsible for "Russian moderation" in Europe.

He advised keeping an "empty chair" for France and opposed an "arbitrary" American policy toward President de Gaulle.

Although he stoutly defended NATO and grieved at de Gaulle's slow down effect on European integration, Acheson was far from unfriendly toward his long-range objective of drawing East and West Europe closer together.

He said NATO should dis-

cuss how to "improve the environment" for a settlement of such World War II issues as the division of Germany and that the United States should foster more East-West trade and otherwise "stop doing what inhibits" a drawing together of all of Europe.

But the former Secretary also condemned de Gaulle for "individual and uncoordinated attempts to advance the special interest of one state over others as the agent of a detente," a move that "can only

lead to division and suspicion" in the alliance.

### **De Gaulle Seen Chary Of Confronting LBJ**

PARIS, April 27 (UPI) — President de Gaulle does not want to try to settle his NATO dispute with the United States in a face-to-face confrontation with President Johnson, informed sources said today.

Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said in a Senate speech in Washington Monday the two leaders should not hesi-

tate to meet personally in an effort to prevent an "estrangement" between the United States and France over de Gaulle's decision to pull French military forces out of NATO and to kick foreign troops out of France.

But the source said de Gaulle considers that the question can be handled through normal diplomatic channels. De Gaulle would be unlikely to accept a face-to-face meeting with Johnson, they said.