NO:

32-H Action

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MAY 5, 1958

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Secretary of State TO:

SECTO 9, MAY 5, NOON

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August 4, 19/5

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

LLOYD HANDED SECRETARY FOLLOWING MEMORANDUM MAY 4:

WE ARE PREPARED TO CONTEMPLATE THAT NUCLEAR TESTS SHOULD BE SUSPENDED AFTER OCTOBER 31, 1958, ON THE BASIS EXPLAINED BY MR. DULLES TO SIR HAROLD CACCIA LAST WEEK

PROVIDED THAT

(A) NO FINAL DECISION SHOULD BE TAKEN BEFORE THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT MEET IN WASHINGTON IN EARLY JUNE; AND

(B) THE SUSPENSION OF NUCLEAR TEST EXPLOSIONS SHOULD APPLY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE ONLY TO EXPLOSIONS IN THE MEGATON RANGE; A MORE PRECISE UPPER LIMIT FOR EXEMPTION FROM THE BAN MIGHT HAVE TO BE WORKED OUT FOR APPLICATION DURING THE SECOND PERIOD OF A YEAR'S SUSPENSION SUGGESTED BY THE AMERICANS; AND

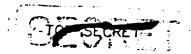
(C) THE AMERICANS ACCEPT THAT OUR AGREEMENT TO A SUSPENSION OF TESTS WOULD BE CONDITIONAL ON THEIR MAKING AVAILABLE TO US UNDER THE TERMS OF THE REVISED MACMAHON ACT THE INFORMATION NEEDED TO REPLACE THAT WHICH WE COULD GET BY CONTINUING TESTING; THIS MEANS THAT WE CANNOT FINALLY ADOPT THIS COURSE UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT WILL BE AVAILABLE TO US UNDER THE REVISED MACMAHON ACT.

(2) THE PRIME MINISTER HAS ONE TECHNICAL MATTER HE WILL WISH TO DISCUSS WITH THE PRESIDENT EARLY IN JUNE, BEARING ON THE POSSIBILITY OF MAKING NUCLEAR WEAPONS IMMUNE FROM SOUNTER MEASURES.

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-2- SECTO 9, MAY 5, NOON, FROM COPENHAGEN

- (3) ANY COMMITMENT WE MIGHT ENTER INTO ABOUT A CUT-OFF WOULD BE SUBJECT TO TWO CONDITIONS:
- (A) THAT AN AGREEMENT ON THE CUT-OFF MUST ONLY ENTER INTO FORCE WHEN A PROPER SYSTEM OF INTERNATIONAL INSPECTION HAS BEEN AGREED AND INSTALLED; AND
- (B) THAT WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT A CUT-OFF PROVIDED THE AMERICANS ARE READY TO PROVIDE US WITH THE MATERIAL NEEDED TO COMPLETE OUR WEAPONS PROGRAMME."

SECRETARY INDICATED DOUBT DISTINCTION BETWEEN LARGE AND SMALL EXPLOSIONS COULD BE INDEFINITELY MAINTAINED IN TEST SUSPENSION AGREEMENT.

ALSO WARNED MIGHT NOT, REPEAT MIGHT NOT, BE POSSIBLE CONCLUDE BILATERAL AGREEMENT THIS SESSION CONGRESS AFTER ATOMIC ENERGY ACT AMENDMENT.

DULLES

HLH



