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## **DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

Memorandum of Conversation

DATE: July 23, 1968

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SUBJECT:

Strauss and NPT

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PARTICIPANTS:

App'd in # 7/23/68

Heinrich Knappstein, Ambassador of the Federal Republic

of Germany

Eugene V. Rostow, Under Secretary for Political Affairs

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At Secretary Fowler's lunch for Herr Strauss today, Ambassador Knappstein reported that Herr Strauss will resign if the NPT is signed, leading his 48 deputies into the wilderness. The effect on the Grand Coalition, in Knappstein's judgment, could be catastrophic politically if not arithmetically, since such a step could split C.D.U.

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