



Department of State

TELEGRAM

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7391
INFO NASA WASHDC PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
USMISSION GENEVA

OFFICE OF LIAISON
FLYING-MAIL ROOM
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

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EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF
THE PRESIDENT

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SUBJ: EMBASSY RECOMMENDATION RE SYMPHONIE LAUNCH REQUEST

REF: (A) PARIS 22443; (B) STATE 150329; (C) CA-10678
(D) HAGUE 7650; (E) STATE 246910

1. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT US REPLY TO SYMPHONIE INQUIRY (REF A) SHOULD BE FAVORABLE IN PRINCIPLE, AND IF POSSIBLE MADE BEFORE NOV 12 MEETING OF SPACE MINISTERS. SYMPHONIE IS DESCRIBED AS EXPERIMENTAL AND THEREFORE, PENDING CLARIFICATION OF ITS EXACT ROLE, WOULD SEEM TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR A US LAUNCH WITHIN PURVIEW OF VALLONTON REPLY (REF B). HOWEVER, IN OUR VIEW THE SYMPHONIE INQUIRY IS NOT YET A SUFFICIENTLY PRECISE PROPOSAL WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE LINDNER CONVERSATIONS (LAST PARA PAGE 4 REF C).

2. FOR EXAMPLE, WE THINK IT IMPORTANT THAT THE SYMPHONIE CONSORTIUM BE REQUIRED TO DEFINE MORE CLEARLY THE USES TO WHICH THE QUOTE EXPERIMENTAL SATELLITE UNQUOTE MIGHT BE PUT. IN A MORE GENERAL VEIN, FRANCE HAS NEVER BEEN PRECISE ON THE SCOPE OF COVERAGE FOR A QUOTE REGIONAL UNQUOTE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE OR SATELLITE SYSTEM. THUS, IT SEEMS TO US IT WOULD BE WISE,

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AS WELL AS OPPORTUNE, IN THE PRESENT SITUATION TO TRY TO MANEUVER EUROPEANS AND ESPECIALLY FRENCH INTO POSITIONS REQUIRING PROPOSED DEFINITIONS OF TERMS. THIS QUESTION ALSO ARISES IN CONNECTION REF D WHICH TENDS PLACE ON THE U.S. THE ONUS FOR DEFINITION.

3. EMB HAS RECEIVED VERY FAVORABLE COMMENTS FROM MANY QUARTERS ON U.S. LAUNCHER POLICY OF REF. E. WHILE EXPRESSING APPRECIATION FOR PRESENT COOPERATIVE U.S. POSTURE, PROF. BONDI, SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE EUROPEAN SPACE CONFERENCE, SAID HE RECOGNIZES IT GOES AS FAR AS U.S. COULD BE EXPECTED TO GO PRIOR TO DEFINITIVE INTEL SAT NEGOTIATIONS AND UNTIL EUROPEANS PUT THEIR HOUSE IN ORDER AND MAKE OWN DECISIONS ON FUTURE PROGRAMS. BONDI COMMENTED THAT HE WAS SOMEWHAT EMBARRASSED THAT LINDNER MISSION HAD TAKEN PLACE IN ABSENCE A SPECIFIC EUROPEAN COOPERATIVE PROPOSAL. SHRIVER

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