Minutes of meeting on April 16 at 10:30 a.m.

Present: The President, Secretary Rusk, Secretary McNamara, and Mr. McGeorge Bundy

The meeting opened with discussion of the question of possibility of giving up NUK to France.

Secretary Rusk explained that this is not essentially a matter of our having a special policy. We have rather a standing policy which is now trying to get us to change, although neither he nor his Foreign Minister has ever asked.

Secretary Rusk believed that centrally in his pursuit of this objective he was standing alone among the other Allies.

The Secretary believed we must recognize that if we go in this direction in these matters we will have very great difficulties with our other Allies.

At the same time the Secretary believed that our existing policy should be carefully delineated. He had restrained some of his own people who wished to extend a policy

As for consultation, the Secretary felt that consulted only on matters that were of primary interest to others. There had been no consultation on such matters in his own sphere.
he wished consultation without responsibility, since
himself had explained to the President that there would be no—in that part of the world.

Secretary McNamara, after remarking that he agreed that changing our attitude would not change, advanced his position in terms of what he called a "narrow military view."
The Defense Department believed

At the same time, the posture has three disadvantages from the point of view of the Department of Defense. First, there is a persisting weakness

There followed some discussion of what might think.