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sult as appropriate with Congressional leaders on the assurances set forth in Paragraph 3 of the proposed guidelines.

JOHN FOSTER DULLES

Secretary of State

Secretary of Defense

740.5/11-354

*Memorandum of Conversation, by the Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs (Merchant)*¹

TOP SECRET

WASHINGTON, November 3, 1954.

Subject: NATO "New Approach" Studies

Participants: The President	Adm. Davis
Secretary Dulles	Col. Billups
Secretary Wilson	Col. Goodpaster
Adm. Radford	(White House staff)
Gen. Collins	Livingston T. Merchant

The meeting with the President was requested jointly by Secretaries Dulles and Wilson to present to and discuss with the President the memorandum entitled "Recommended U.S. Position on NATO Nuclear Strategy" ² signed by the two Secretaries.

After a brief introduction of the subject, the Secretary of State suggested that General Collins describe the background of this project and its present status. Gen. Collins did so concisely but comprehensively. . . .

General Collins then pointed out that for use in discussions at the military level with our Allies before the Council meeting and, in particular, for use at the Ministerial Council meeting of NATO in December, it was important to be able to give assurances that (a) the nuclear weapons to implement agreed NATO plans would be available to U.S. forces assigned to NATO Commanders, and (b) in presenting programs for military assistance to the Congress the Executive Branch would support agreed NATO plans to accomplish the new concept.

There was some inconclusive discussion on Point A but no objection was raised to General Collins' statement that he had answered skeptical questions from a French General by saying in effect that it was inconceivable that the U.S., after all its expenditures and after integrating nuclear weapons even into its tactical plans, would not use these weapons if war came.

On Point B, Admiral Radford expressed serious doubt as to the willingness of Congress to support a continuing large MDAP program. During the discussion it was made clear that no costing of the new program had been undertaken or was indeed possible at this stage.

¹ The source text indicates that the meeting took place at the White House at 12:30 p. m. on Nov. 3.

² *Supra.*