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DEA/14001-1-3-40

*Le secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures
à l'ambassadeur en Belgique*⁵²

*Secretary of State for External Affairs
to Ambassador in Belgium*⁵²

TELEGRAM E-2301

Ottawa, December 12, 1958

CONFIDENTIAL. OPIIMMEDIATE.

Reference: Your Tel 547 Dec 9.†

Repeat London (Priority), NATO Paris, Paris, Rome, Bonn, Geneva, The Hague, Washington, Permis New York (Routine) (Information).

By Bag Vienna, T&C.

EURATOM

1. Cabinet has decided that we should approach Euratom with a view to negotiating a bilateral agreement for cooperation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy. The intention is that this agreement should provide a framework for the development of cooperation between Canada and Euratom and, in particular, for the institution of a joint research and development programme on natural uranium-heavy water reactors.

2. As you know, there have been informal discussions between Canadian and Euratom officials on this matter and we understand that Euratom would welcome this Canadian initiative. Please therefore address a note or letter along the following lines to the President of the Euratom Commission: Begins: "I have been instructed by my government to inform you that Canada would welcome the development of cooperation with the European Atomic Energy Community (Euratom) in the peaceful uses of atomic energy and to inquire whether Euratom would be prepared to negotiate an agreement with Canada for such cooperation.

"You will be aware that Canada has concentrated its nuclear scientific effort on the development of natural uranium-heavy water reactors and I am authorized to say that the Canadian government would be particularly interested in considering with Euratom the possibility of undertaking a joint programme of research and development on power reactors of this type, in which Euratom is also believed to have an interest.

"If Euratom should wish to develop cooperative relations with Canada in this field and to negotiate an agreement for this purpose, the Canadian authorities would be glad to prepare a draft agreement to serve as a basis for negotiation. The Canadian government hopes that sufficient progress might be made to permit negotiations to take place in Brussels towards the end of January 1959." Ends.

3. Before delivering the foregoing message, please discuss it informally with the appropriate Euratom officials to ensure that it will be acceptable to the Euratom Commission.

4. A working group has been established in Ottawa to consider the type of agreement or agreements to be concluded with Euratom. The following account of our preliminary thinking may be of value to you as background information:

⁵² Note marginale :/Marginal note:

Cleared with Mr. Bryce (P.C.O.) And Mr. Gray, AECL, before despatch. J. [Langley]