

from bomb tests. There might, in consequence, be a widespread feeling that the General Assembly itself or one of its organs should assume this function; however, this focus would change as the peaceful sources of radiation became more important and IAEA became more directly involved.

18. The meeting ended with a brief reference to the chairmanship of the next general conference, on which the USA had not repeat not yet taken a firm position. Wilcox explained that the USSR and its satellites appeared to be making an attempt to secure positions of prestige in various UN bodies and that, in this context, the Bulgarian candidacy for the chairmanship of the general conference was causing the USA authorities some concern. He promised that we would be informed as soon as a decision on this matter had been taken. He then thanked Wershof for visiting Washington for a most valuable exchange of views and paid tribute to the effective role which he was playing in the Board of Governors and to the constructive attitude of Canada towards the Agency.

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*Note de la 1^{ère} direction économique
pour le sous-secrétaire d'État adjoint aux Affaires extérieures*

*Memorandum from Economic (1) Division
to Assistant Under-Secretary of State for External Affairs*

SECRET

[Ottawa], November 18, 1959

EXPORTS OF NUCLEAR MATERIALS: SAFEGUARDS

Since the provisional approval given by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors to the "general principles" paper on safeguards ("Annex I")⁵²⁷ the IAEA Secretariat has been working on a revision of the detailed regulations ("Annex II") which will probably be ready by the end of November.

2. The United States had originally suggested that a meeting of the principal Western suppliers (Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, South Africa, Australia, France, Portugal and Belgium) should be held in Washington in early December to develop an agreed position on the Agency safeguards proposals and to reaffirm the maintenance of a common front on bilateral exports. We are now informed by the United States Embassy in Ottawa that the French have told the United States that the French Government has reached the definitive conclusion that it will not support a common front on bilateral exports. It is prepared to go along with the IAEA proposals because it does not expect to handle nuclear supplies through the Agency. As a result of this move by the French, the United States now proposes to drop the idea of a Washington meeting. Instead, they would send a strong Note on safeguards to the other suppliers and would back it up in France by a "high level" mission to urge the French to change their position. The Embassy has asked us to express an opinion on the proposed strategy and later informed us that the United Kingdom had indicated its approval.

3. In view of the stand that the French have taken, a suppliers' meeting next month might do more harm than good and the United States' proposed course of action seems to be about the

⁵²⁷ À la conférence de septembre. Voir la version finale dans GOV/INF/36, 2 octobre 1959.
At the September meeting. For the final version, see GOV/INF/36, October 2, 1959.