

table that we should have a formal reply to our note before Christmas and that as soon as the Christmas Holidays were over the Commission would be prepared to give immediate consideration to any draft which we would submit.

5. I will inform the Belgian Foreign Office as soon as possible of the note which we are proposing to send to the Euratom Commission this afternoon.

[O.G.] STONER

596.

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*Le haut-commissaire au Royaume-Uni
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*High Commissioner in United Kingdom
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 4602

London, December 16, 1958

CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

Reference: Your Tel E-2310 Dec 12.

Repeat Brussels, NATO Paris, Paris, Rome, Hague, Bonn, Geneva, Permex New York, Washington, T&C Ottawa (Information).

EURATOM

We arranged to call this morning on Donald Cape of the Atomic Energy and Disarmament Department of the Foreign Office and informed him of your intention to commence negotiation of an agreement with Euratom. He was interested to learn that you were planning an immediate approach to Euratom on this matter but confirmed that the UK would not repeat not be in a position to participate in these arrangements.

2. Cape told us that the UK were now in the final stage of their own negotiations with the Community since at its last meeting the Euratom Council of Ministers had approved the draft agreement both in principle and in substance. The Council had, however, at the instigation of the French, suggested that the safeguards provisions should be re-drafted so as to appear more "balanced." Cape said that the safeguards clauses in the draft agreement are very similar to those in the USA-Euratom agreement in that they provide for a form of self-inspection by the community. The UK had originally hoped that the safeguards system would be based on the OEEC agency, which would have provided complete balance between the parties, but in the event this had not proved possible. After the precedent of the USA agreement the UK felt that self-inspection within the Community did provide reasonable safeguards in that the members were to a degree at least watching one another; the same would not repeat not be true of a bilateral with an individual country. Cape thought the re-drafting of the safeguards clauses to give an appearance of balance would be rather tricky but he emphasized that the difficulty was one of presentation rather than of substance. The UK for their part do not repeat not in the early foreseeable future expect to be on the receiving end of the agreement so that the real question is one of devising a form of words which will protect the amour propre of the Community.

3. Cape told us that apart from these relatively minor difficulties over safeguards the negotiations with Euratom had gone surprisingly well. There had been no serious difficulties and considerable mutual good will so that progress had been steady throughout. You may recall from our conversation with Cape early in the negotiations (our telegram 3162