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*L'ambassadeur aux États-Unis
au secrétaire d'État aux Affaires extérieures*

*Ambassador in United States
to Secretary of State for External Affairs*

TELEGRAM 2142

Washington, September 8, 1959

CONFIDENTIAL. PRIORITY.

Reference: Our Tel 2069 Aug 26.†

Repeat London, Geneva (Priority) (Information).

By Bag Vienna from London.

IAEA: WERSHOF'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

Wershof, Gray and Miss Burwash, accompanied by Ritchie and Langley, met with Wilcox (Assistant Secretary for International Organization Affairs) and other State Department and USAEC officials at 10:30 on September 3 to discuss the progress of IAEA, and USA and Canadian policy towards the Agency. They also met in the afternoon with State Department and USAEC official to discuss safeguards. This telegram deals with the first of these meetings.⁵²⁴

2. Wilcox began by saying that, despite some disappointment at the way in which IAEA had developed, the USA Government continued to support the Agency and retained an optimistic assessment of its future possibilities. He was convinced that the inspiration behind the Agency was good; it had been regrettable that its establishment had taken so long since, in the interval, the USA had been obliged to develop its civil atomic cooperation with other countries through bilateral channels. It had now been decided by the Secretary of State and Mr. McCone that, in order to assist the development of the Agency, the USA should go to the next general conference with as constructive a programme as possible.

3. Wershof, who made clear that his remarks would be based on his personal experience as Canadian Governor and should not repeat not necessarily be interpreted as the views of the Canadian authorities, said that many persons who had had close contact with the Agency over the past few years were concerned at the lack of progress and uncertain prospects of IAEA. The root of the difficulty seemed to lie in the failure of the USSR to offer genuine cooperation and, for his part, he was not repeat not optimistic of any improvement from this point of view. The response of several friendly member countries to the Agency's appeals for funds had also been disappointing.

4. Wilcox readily agreed and said that the USA had urged friendly countries to contribute more generously on several occasions. He doubted if the USA could properly or fruitfully do much more in this direction but the possibility of a further appeal at the highest level might be considered. The attitude of the USSR in the Agency seemed to be similar to its attitude in the UN and specialized agencies: it contributed relatively little money and participated mainly for the advantages, tangible or propaganda, which it could derive.

⁵²⁴ Voir/See Volume 24, document 586.