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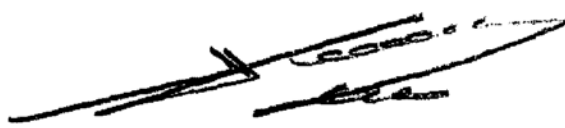
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IMSM-433-69
27 August 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY GENERAL, NORTH ATLANTIC
TREATY ORGANISATION

SUBJECT: Nuclear Plants in Germany

1. The attached letter from SACEUR forwards a letter from Dr. Hans F. Winterkorn which expresses concern about the safety of NATO forces operating in West Germany near the sites of future nuclear power plants.
2. The letters are forwarded to you for your consideration since federal legislation and national sovereignty are involved.



REGRADED NATO UNCLASSIFIED
(Approved for Public Disclosure)
G. PALAIOLOGOPOULOS
Lieutenant General, Hellenic Army
Director
International Military Staff
Per Authority IMSM-433-69
By: [Signature] Date: 16.1.2005

1 ENCLOSURE:
Letter, SACEUR, dtd 14 Aug 69
Ref: 1450/20

COPY TO: MILREPS, SACEUR, LIST B, SACEUREP

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This document consists
of one page and an
Enclosure of two pages

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SUPREME HEADQUARTERS ALLIED POWERS EUROPE
GRAND QUARTIER GENERAL DES PUISSANCES ALLIEES EN EUROPE
BELGIUM

1450/20

14 August 1969

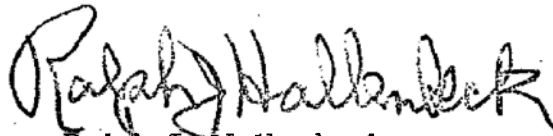
SUBJECT : Nuclear Plants in Germany

TO : Director
International Military Staff
NATO Headquarters
Autoroute Brussels-Zaventem
Brussels 29, Belgium

1. The attached letter from Dr. Hans F. Winterkorn to SACEUR expresses a concern about the safety of NATO forces operating in West Germany near the sites of future nuclear power plants. Alternative construction methods to protect the reactors are presented.

2. The letter is forwarded to you for your consideration since federal legislation and national sovereignty are involved.

FOR THE SUPREME ALLIED COMMANDER EUROPE:



Ralph J. Hallenbeck
Brigadier General, US AF
Secretary of the Staff

1 Enclosure
as stated

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c/s 209/6

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Princeton University DEPARTMENT OF CIVIL AND GEOLOGICAL ENGINEERING
SCHOOL OF ENGINEERING AND APPLIED SCIENCE
PRINCETON, NEW JERSEY 08540

July 15, 1969

General Andrew J. Goodpaster
Supreme Allied Commander - Europe
SHAPE
APO New York 09055

Dear General Goodpaster:

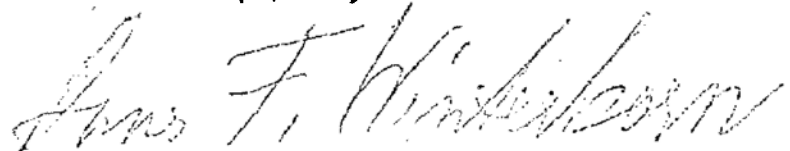
On a recent visit to Germany I received certain information which seemed to have sufficient bearing on the defense of Western Europe to be worthy of being brought to your attention. The information was given to me by an old and thoroughly trustworthy friend, Professor Dr. Ludwig Merz, Director of the "INSTITUT FÜR MESS-UND REGELUNGS-TECHNIK" of the Technical University of Munich, who is also a member of the Safety Committee of the German Atomic Energy Commission.

According to Dr. Merz, present plans call for the construction of 30 nuclear power stations in Western Germany before 1980, with a total capacity of about 30,000 mega watt. These stations will be partly above ground and an easy target for conventional as well as unconventional warfare. According to Dr. Merz, a leak of 1% of radio-active material, caused by conventional bombing or even by accident in peace time, would kill off all population within a radius of 50 km around the reactor. As a consequence, a conventional war could result in an atomic holocaust.

While it would not add too much to the cost of the reactors to build them underground and to protect and camouflage them with a layer of soil that supports forest vegetation, it seems that the German regulatory bodies are either too optimistic or too pessimistic. This means that they either think that there will be no more war, or that everything will be doomed any way if war would occur. In view of the presence of our own soldiers and those of our allies in Western Germany, I feel that we and the other Nato countries have a definite interest in this matter.

With kindest personal regards and every good wish for you and your family

Sincerely yours,



Hans F. Winterkorn

cc. Prof. Dr. L. Merz

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