

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
OFFICE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS POLICY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20504

June 23, 1971

French 6/2/71
Communication 3:00

MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION

Participants

Jean-Max Bouchaud, Counselor, Embassy of France
Pierre Audigier, Scientific Counselor, Embassy of France
Raymond Serradeil, Scientific Attache, Embassy of France
Clay T. Whitehead, Director, Office of Telecommunications Policy
Richard T. Black, Advisor, E/TD, Department of State
Stephen E. Doyle, Counsel, Office of Telecommunications Policy

Three officers from the French Embassy came to visit Mr. Whitehead on June 21, 1971, at their request, to discuss the laying of a new transatlantic cable. Mr. Bouchaud indicated he had instructions from Paris to make known "to the competent authorities in the U.S. Government" certain views of the Government of France concerning a pending proposal before the Federal Communications Commission for the laying of a new transatlantic telephone cable. After reviewing briefly the sequence of events related to the matter which have occurred since last October, he said his Government has two primary concerns involving this cable:

(1) France does not want to see the development of a satellite monopoly in international communications and the GOF believes that a denial of TAT-6 would be a positive step toward such a monopoly.

(2) Authorities in France who have studied the relative economics of cables and satellites believe that cables offer lower operating costs than satellites and are economically more desirable. He said his government hopes that the government of the United States will take the necessary actions to permit the laying of TAT-6. He also asked if Mr. Whitehead would communicate the views of the French Government to the FCC.

Mr. Whitehead said that he was well aware of the views of several European governments in this matter, including those of France. He noted that the FCC is conducting an inquiry (Docket 18875) into the

question of appropriate cable/satellite policy for the 70's. He said that he understood Mr. Burch, Chairman of the FCC, had discussed the matter with several European spokesmen in Geneva last week. He indicated that the Administration has presented its views to the Commission in this matter in a letter transmitted last month and said that the letter was based upon a staff study done by OTP personnel.

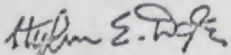
In response to questioning, Mr. Whitehead offered to make available to Mr. Bouchaud copies of the letter to Mr. Burch dated May 27, and the OTP study on Cable/Satellite Mix. Mr. Whitehead said he would be glad to inform the FCC of this visit and of the concerns of the Government of France.

Mr. Black assured Mr. Bouchaud that all competent authorities in the USG are aware of the views of the GOF and that these views are taken fully into account in all phases of consideration of this matter in the government.

Mr. Bouchaud emphasized that his information from Paris indicated that cables were, in fact, substantially more economical than satellites for use in long distance communications and he expressed surprise when told by Mr. Whitehead that OTP studies indicated that "cables were several times more expensive than satellites." Under questioning he stated more precisely that cables of the TAT-6 (SF) generation were several times more costly than comparable circuits obtained in INTELSAT IV type satellites.

Mr. Black explained that it is not possible at this time to predict the outcome of Docket 18875, nor the specific form the outcome would take. He said the Commission could adopt policy conclusions relating to the cable/satellite mix for the next decade and subsequently deal with the specific question of TAT-6. In response to questions from Mr. Bouchaud, Messrs. Whitehead and Black indicated that some FCC action could be contemplated within the next few weeks, possibly sooner. Mr. Black explained the nature of cable landing licenses and the role of the Commission (FCC) as the final decision maker in such matters with appropriate concurrence from the State Department.

In conclusion, Mr. Whitehead expressed a desire to enhance the cooperative attitude of European communication officials toward their U.S. counterparts and hoped that we could continue to have frequent and frank exchanges of views. The French representatives indicated that after French authorities had an opportunity to study the OTP paper, they would like to present their comments to OTP. Mr. Whitehead indicated he would be delighted to have the French views on the study.


Stephen E. Doyle

cc: Mr. Nelson, E/TD
Mr. Black, E/TD
Mr. Ende, FCC

Tuesday 6/22/71

mtg
6/2/71
3pm

12:15 Steve says Dick Black is under the impression that you said you would be glad to communicate the French Government's views to the FCC. Steve does not remember your saying so. No such statement is contained in the attached memcom. If you did say so, would you please insert it at the appropriate place.

*French
Communications*

Friday 6/18/71

MEETING
6/21/71
3 p. m.

3:50 We have invited Tom Nelson to the meeting on Monday (6/21)
at 3 p. m. with Mons. Jean-Max Bouchaud (First
Counselor of the French Embassy).

Mr. Nelson advises that either he or Dick Black will attend.

*Dick Black attended
as well as Steve Doyle*

Mr. Pierre Audigier, Scientific
Counselor

Mr. Raymond Serradeil, Scientific
Attaché
for Space

Thursday 6/17/71

MEETING
6/21/71
3 p. m.

5:00 You will want to talk with Steve about inviting either Bert Rein or Tom Nelson to the meeting on Monday (6/21) at 3 p. m. with Mons. Bouchard.

Dean - King/2000

Thursday 6/17/71

MEETING
6/21/71
2 p.m.

4:30 Mons. Bouchard (First Counselor at the French Embassy) will come in Monday (6/21) at 3 p.m. to meet with Mr. Whitehead on cables and satellites. Mr. Hinchman will attend. Mr. Whitehead thought Dr. Mansur might want to join also.

Mr. Whitehead will be talking with Steve to ask him if he will invite either Bert Rein or Tom Nelson to attend the meeting.

(Mons. Bouchard had had instructions from Paris to meet with responsible officials here concerning cables and satellites.)

cc: Dr. Mansur
Mr. Hinchman

*Either Tom Nelson
or Dick Black
will be there*

Thursday 6/17/71

2:15 Steve suggests you talk with Mr. Bouchard (First
Counselor at the French Embassy).

Ad. =4-0990
Ext. 36

Miss deMilleret

Thursday 6/17/71

*First
Counselor
at the
Embassy*

11:25 Mr. Bouchaud of the French Embassy would appreciate a call.

Ad. 4-0990
Ext. 36

Secy: Miss deMilloret

Checked with the secretary to see what he would like to discuss -- wants to discuss French Atlantic cable

*Ask Steve if
Tom should talk
to them.
"Sure!"*