

Sharing Atoms

Recently again the question has been raised as to whether the United States should extend the sharing of nuclear weapons development know-how with its allies, in particular with France.

In favor of such transfer of military potential to allied military establishments it has been said that it would save them needless expense and effort. It has been said that failure, on the part of the United States, to effect such transfer agreements would only enhance independent development of nuclear weapons by these countries, in which case the United States would have less control over such emerging nuclear powers.

These reasonings seem to us somehow too clever. Years ago Senator Humphrey made the pointed remark, "I love our allies, but I am not too sure of their colonels."

Those who plead for "nuclear transfers" seem to miss the core of the challenge to our nuclear policy: Do we have the moral vigor to stop this criminal nuclear missile race?

Our only chance to get this menace under control is to exercise humane responsibility and restraint rather than to become guilty by placing a tool of moral depravity into a foreign politician's hand.

The fate of the United States and of the world hinges upon the possibility of reaching an international accord — under United Nations auspices and control as repeatedly urged by W. Sterling Cole, the former director of the International Atomic Agency — an accord which has the effect of curbing the spread of the possession of nuclear weapons to more and more national governments. The presently considered steps achieve the opposite.

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