

**No. 15493**

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**FRANCE  
and  
UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS**

**Exchange of letters constituting an agreement concerning  
the prevention of the accidental or unauthorized use of  
nuclear weapons. Moscow, 16 July 1976**

*Authentic texts: French and Russian.*

*Registered by France on 27 February 1977.*

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**FRANCE  
et  
UNION DES RÉPUBLIQUES SOCIALISTES  
SOVIÉTIQUES**

**Échange de lettres constituant un accord relatif au déclen-  
chement accidentel ou non autorisé d'armes nucléaires.  
Moscou, 16 juillet 1976**

*Textes authentiques : français et russe.*

*Enregistré par la France le 27 février 1977.*

[TRANSLATION — TRADUCTION]

EXCHANGE OF LETTERS CONSTITUTING AN AGREEMENT<sup>1</sup>  
BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST  
REPUBLICS CONCERNING THE PREVENTION OF THE ACCI-  
DENTAL OR UNAUTHORIZED USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

I

THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC

Moscow, 16 July 1976

Sir,

Following our conversation on 28 April 1976, we feel that it is desirable to confirm the importance which is attached in France and in the USSR to the prevention of the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons. This initiative is in keeping with the special responsibilities of France and the Soviet Union as nuclear Powers.

Taking into account the views exchanged on measures to obviate any risk of such accidental or unauthorized use, it was agreed to adopt the following provisions:

1. Each Party undertakes to maintain and to make such improvements as it deems necessary to the organizational and technical measures taken by it to prevent the accidental or unauthorized use of any nuclear weapon under its control.

2. The two Parties undertake to notify each other immediately of any accident or any other unexplained incident which may appear to involve the possibility of the explosion of one of their nuclear weapons and may be interpreted as liable to have harmful consequences for the other Party.

3. In the event of an unexplained nuclear incident, each Party undertakes so to act as to avoid, as far as possible, any misinterpretation of its actions by the other Party. In any such situation, each Party may inform the other Party or request from it any information which it considers necessary.

4. For the transmission of urgent information in situations requiring prompt clarification, the Parties shall, as a priority measure, use the existing direct communication link between the Elysée and the Kremlin.

5. The two Parties shall jointly study possible ways of further improving, by mutual agreement, their means of direct communication.

If the foregoing provisions are acceptable to you, Sir, I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply constitute the Agreement between France and the Soviet Union.

This Agreement will enter into force on today's date.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[Signed]

JEAN SAUVAGNARGUES

His Excellency Mr. Andrei Gromyko  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics

<sup>1</sup> Came into force on 16 July 1976, in accordance with the provisions of the said letters.

## II

THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS  
OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS

Moscow, 16 July 1976

Sir,

Following our conversation on 28 April 1976, we feel that it is desirable to confirm the importance which is attached in the USSR and France to the prevention of the accidental or unauthorized use of nuclear weapons. This initiative is in keeping with the special responsibilities of the Soviet Union and France as nuclear Powers.

Taking into account the views exchanged on measures to obviate any risk of such accidental or unauthorized use, it was agreed to adopt the following provisions:

[*See letter I*]

If the foregoing provisions are acceptable to you, Sir, I have the honour to propose that this letter and your reply constitute the Agreement between the Soviet Union and France.

This Agreement will enter into force on today's date.

Accept, Sir, etc.

[*Signed*]

A. GROMYKO  
Minister for Foreign Affairs  
of the USSR

His Excellency Mr. Jean Sauvagnargues  
Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic

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