ICONIC MOMENTS IN FOREIGN POLICY

Wilson Center

NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY (NPT)

With the uncertain fate of the New START Treaty, let's look back on the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT): an international agreement developed to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons technology. Negotiated by the UN's Eighteen Nation Committee on Disarmament, the treaty was entered into force in 1970.



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1. Research Memo to the Secretary of State on Attitudes of Selected Countries

The Intelligence and Research Bureau (INR) considered which countries were likely to sign on and why. INR mistakenly believed it was unlikely that the Soviet Union would be a co-sponsor of a treaty in part because of the "international climate."

 Intelligence Note to the Secretary of State on Souring Relations with West Germany By late winter of 1967, controversy over the NPT was hurting US-West German relations, placing them at perhaps their lowest point during the Cold War.

3. Report from Embassy of Hungary in the Soviet Union to Hungary

After Indian President Zakir Hussain's visit to Moscow, Hungarian Embassy discusses Soviet-Indian relations and Soviet efforts to pressure India to sign the NPT.

4. Memorandum from Henry Kissinger to President Nixon on the Israeli Nuclear Program

Considering the complex problem raised by the Israeli Nuclear Program, Kissinger thought it might be possible to persuade the Israelis that with all of the loopholes of the NPT, signing it would not prevent them from continuing their weapons development.

5. Report by Italian Military Intelligence on Nuclear Proliferation

Nearly 20 years later, the SISMI reports on the state of missile proliferation of developing countries and countries with autonomous missile programs.