

Franco-Indian nuclear relations and Anglo-American anxieties during the early Cold War, 1948-52

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Abstract

France and India concluded their first bilateral nuclear cooperation agreement in 1951, which became the first such cooperation outside the Manhattan Project, and preceded President Eisenhower's 1953 "Atoms for Peace" proposal. The agreement came at a time when Paris and New Delhi disputed over the fate of French colonial possessions in the subcontinent. This cooperation deeply upset the United Kingdom, which regretted losing leverage over its former colony to its colonial rival. Based on multi-archival research, this paper explores the Franco-Indian nuclear relations in the backdrop of Anglo-American endeavors for information censorship in atomic energy and control of strategic minerals.