U.S.–UK NUCLEAR COOPERATION AFTER 50 YEARS

Edited by Jenifer Mackby and Paul Cornish
Introduction by John J. Hamre and Robin Niblett

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As the United States and the United Kingdom commemorate the five decades of their special nuclear relationship embodied in the 1958 Mutual Defense Agreement (MDA), it is fitting that through transatlantic collaboration a research institute in each country examines that history. The Center for Strategic and International Studies, in Washington, D.C., and the Royal Institute of International Affairs, Chatham House, London, enlisted senior and former senior officials, scientists, academics, and members of industry who have been involved in the implementation of the MDA to recount their experiences in retrospective and prospective essays and oral histories. The resulting volume of histories, analyses, and anecdotes provides valuable reading for an understanding of how the two nations were drawn together by a common threat during a turbulent era.

Indeed, our shared resolve to defeat Nazi Germany and, subsequently, to resist the expansion of Soviet communism fashioned a bond between the two English-speaking transatlantic allies that now seems virtually indissoluble. It has survived despite a number of obstacles, including a halt in the scientific collaboration that spurred the Manhattan Project; the Suez crisis; and sharp disagreements over scientific, political, and technical issues. Each of the chapters in this book deals with a significant issue from the history of the nuclear relation-

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ship. The chapters describe the dramas leading up to the signing of the MDA, the period of political partnership and technical collaboration since, and future challenges facing the relationship in a radically changed security environment.

Because the expertise about the nuclear era resides in senior officials and scientists who have retired or are facing retirement, this project also commissioned young nuclear experts to interview them and to write essays about the MDA. Their essays and abstracts of the oral histories (with, among others, Des Browne, UK secretary of state for defence; James Schlesinger, former U.S. secretary of energy; and Harold Brown, former U.S. secretary of defense) are included in this collection.

The volume is part of the CSIS Project on Nuclear Issues, which aims to build and sustain a networked community of young nuclear experts from the military, policy, academic and industrial sectors. Thus, this volume comprises past, present, and future leaders of the two countries who tell the story of a distinct transatlantic relationship, a liaison that has no parallel.