

PREM19

47

ENERGY

(nuclear power  
safety – Schmidt  
letter)

Confidential Filing

Chancellor Schmidt wrote to the PM concerning international co-operation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the safety of nuclear power plants.

ENERGY

May 1979

Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date	Referred to	Date
<del>1.6.79</del>							
<del>11.6.79</del>							
<del>19.6.79</del>							
29.6.79							
<p>PREM 19/47</p>							

Geigy

JS



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

29 June 1979

pa.  
for  
M

Thank you for your letter of 27 June with which you enclosed the text of a message from Chancellor Schmidt to the Prime Minister. The message has, of course, been brought to the Prime Minister's attention.

M. A. PATTISON

His Excellency Herr Hans Hellmuth Ruete, GCVO.

DER BOTSCHAFTER  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

London, June 27th, 1979

*Dear Prime Minister*

*TIBA/79T*

I have the honour to transmit to you the enclosed original letter from the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany, Herr Helmut Schmidt, the contents of which had already been communicated to you in my letter of May 30th, 1979.

I have the honour to be, dear Prime Minister,

*Yours sincerely,*

*H. Ruete*

(Hans H. Ruete)

Her Excellency  
The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP  
Her Majesty's Prime Minister and  
First Lord of the Treasury  
L o n d o n

CONFIDENTIAL



tw  
Energy

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

19 June 1979

Chancellor Schmidt's Message on Nuclear Safety

Sir Jack Rampton sent me, with his letter of 11 June (copied to you), the draft of a reply which the Prime Minister might send to Chancellor Schmidt's message to her of 28 May about an international initiative on nuclear safety.

The Prime Minister has approved the draft proposed and I now enclose the signed original of her reply to the Chancellor. I should be grateful if you would arrange for this to be sent to our Embassy in Bonn for delivery as soon as possible. You may also wish to telegraph the text in advance in case there is a chance of the reply being delivered to the Chancellor before the Prime Minister meets him in Strasbourg on 21 June.

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to Sir Jack Rampton (Department of Energy), Andrew Dluguid (Department of Industry), and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

RCC

Paul Lever, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

CONFIDENTIAL

*Subject*

10 DOWNING STREET

T30- JS  
 HOME MINISTER'S  
 cc fco  
 PERSONAL MESSAGE  
 SERIAL No. D1 T30a/79r  
 Cab. 9H

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 June 1979

*My dear Charullo,*

I am grateful to you for telling me in your letter of 28 May of your Government's approach to the International Atomic Energy Agency about a study of the safety of nuclear power plants.

Nuclear power must make an important contribution to the free world's energy needs and public acceptability is an essential factor.

This means that the public have to be convinced that the risks such as they are - and there is no way there could be no risks - are kept to an acceptable minimum compared with the risks of any alternatives or lack of alternatives.

As I understand your proposal it is that there should be an international gesture and that in effect the IAEA should step up its efforts within the fields in which it already operates. I agree that it is important that this should be done.

At the same time, we must ensure that such reinforcement of the IAEA's activities should not take a form that would lead to a moratorium on nuclear power developments.

/We shall no doubt

We shall no doubt wish to consider at the Summit how these more intensive efforts should be presented and pursued to the best advantage.

May I say how much I welcome your concern.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond D. Holbert

---

His Excellency Herr Helmut Schmidt

CONFIDENTIAL

Energy 1



SIR JACK RAMPTON KCB  
PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

Prime Minister

Agree the attached  
draft reply to  
Chancellor Schmidt?

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY  
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH  
MILLBANK  
LONDON SW1P 4QJ

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
01-211 4391

11 June 1979

Dea Cartledge

BJM  
14/6

Short letter  
agreed

NUCLEAR SAFETY - CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT'S LETTER OF 28 MAY

Your letter of 30 May. What follows has been approved by my Secretary of State.

[A]

Chancellor Schmidt's initiative follows, of course, from Harrisburgh, and his Government's difficulties in pursuing the development of nuclear power because of public opposition and the resistance of some local and Lander authorities. He is also concerned about the fact that French and East German nuclear stations are situated near the FRG border and he needs to be assured that their standards are acceptable to the FRG. (No doubt they are equally concerned about the FRG's own standards).

[B]

His message to the Prime Minister should be read in conjunction with the spelling out of what he has in mind, given in the letter from his Minister Hauff to the Director General of the IAEA (see telegram number 92 of 1 June from Vienna attached). From this it is clear that apart from dressing up an international gesture, Chancellor Schmidt is primarily proposing a stepping up of activities in which the IAEA is already involved.

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B Cartledge Esq  
Private Secretary  
Prime Minister's Office  
No 10 Downing Street SW1



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And that he does not have in mind mandatory international regulations which, as of now, would be unacceptable to all the main nuclear power countries.

The final dressing up of any initiative must surely await the Summit. Meanwhile it is important that there should be no misunderstandings and that whatever is done should not be another cause of delay in the development of nuclear power programmes.

Suggested reply attached.

Copies as yours.

Yours sincerely

David Keenan

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**DRAFT**

Addressed to:

Herr Helmut Schmidt  
The Federal Chancellor  
Federal Republic of Germany  
Bonn

**File No.**

Copies to:  
PS/SOS

PS/Foreign &  
Commonwealth Sec.  
PS/Sos for Industry  
PS/Sir John Hunt

Originated by:  
*(Initials and date)*

Seen by:  
*(Initials and date)*

Enclosures:

Type for signature of

PRIME MINISTER  
.....  
*(Initials and date)*

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

CONFIDENTIAL

I am grateful to you for telling me in your letter of  
28 May of your Government's approach to the International  
Atomic Energy Agency about a study of the safety of nuclear  
power plants.

Nuclear power must make an important contribution to the  
free world's energy needs and public acceptability is an  
essential factor.


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no risks - are kept to an acceptable minimum compared with  
the risks of any alternatives or lack of alternatives.

As I understand your proposal it is that there should be an  
international gesture and that in effect the IAEA should  
step up its efforts within the fields in which it already  
operates. I agree that it is important that this should be  
done.

/over

(CONTINUE TYPING HERE)

File No.

  
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At the same time we must ensure that such reinforcement of the IAEA's activities should not take a form that would lead to a moratorium on nuclear power developments.

We shall no doubt wish to consider at the Summit how these more intensive efforts should be presented and pursued to the best advantage.

May I say how much I welcome your concern.

PP OTTAWA

PP WASHINGTON

PP UKREP BRUSSELS

PP PARIS

GR 400A

RESTRICTED

FM VIENNA 011630Z JUNE 79

DESKBY FCO 011700Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 92 OF 1 JUNE 79

INFO PRIORITY BONN, TOKYO, OTTAWA, WASHINGTON, UKREP BRUSSELS  
AND PARIS.

FOLLOWING FROM ACTING RESREP TO IAEA

TOKYO SUMMIT: GERMAN INITIATIVE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

1. NIPT REFERS. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF MEMORANDUM WITH LETTER  
FROM HAUFF TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE IAEA

BEGINS:

CO-OPERATION ON THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS WITHIN THE  
FRAMEWORK OF THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA)  
EXPLANATION OF THE PROPOSAL MADE BY THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL  
REPUBLIC OF GERMANY DATED 17TH MAY 1979.

THE ISSUE OF THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS IS OF GLOBAL  
SIGNIFICANCE. WHILE IT IS PRIMARILY THE DIRECT CONCERN OF THE  
COUNTRY IN WHICH THESE PLANTS ARE OPERATED IT IS ALSO OF RELEVANCE  
TO THE NEIGHBOURING COUNTRIES. AT THE SAME TIME, THE ASSOCIATED  
PSYCHOLOGICAL FACTORS INFLUENCE THE PUBLIC ASSESSMENT ALL OVER  
THE WORLD OF THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.

THE PROPOSAL OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY  
IS DESIGNED TO INITIATE AN OBJECTIVE STUDY ON THE SAFETY OF  
NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS. IN THE FIRST PHASE, THE MAIN SAFETY  
CRITERIA WOULD HAVE TO BE LISTED AND THE AVAILABLE OPERATING  
EXPERIENCE RECORDED. IN THE SECOND PHASE, AN EVALUATION WOULD  
HAVE TO BE MADE, IN THE CONTEXT OF WHICH THE GREATEST POSSIBLE  
MEASURE OF AGREEMENT SHOULD BE SOUGHT. ANY DIFFERENCES OF

OPINION AND THE RIGHT OF EACH COUNTRY FREELY TO TAKE ITS OWN  
DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE RESPECTED.

ALL COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN NUCLEAR ENERGY SHOULD BE REQUESTED  
TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY. THE RESULTS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE  
NOT ONLY TO THOSE INVOLVED AS WELL AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND  
INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUT ALSO TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) IN VIENNA HAS A  
WORLD-WIDE MANDATE AS REGARDS THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY.  
IT WOULD THEREFORE BE WELCOMED IF THE IAEA ADOPTED THE PRESENT  
PROPOSAL FOR A CRITICAL EXAMINATION. THE IAEA WOULD BE ABLE TO  
MAKE USE OF THE VALUABLE WORK IT HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS  
FIELD. SOME OF THE PROCEDURES EMPLOYED IN THE ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL  
NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE) COULD ALSO BE USED.

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES COULD BE EXAMINED:

1. EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY CONCEPTS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS,  
ALSO ON THE BASIS OF THE OPERATING EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGHOUT  
THE WORLD:
2. COMPARISON OF THE BASIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS TO BE APPLIED  
AND WAYS AND MEANS OF HARMONIZING THEM:
3. EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON THE FUTURE DEVELOPMENT OF SAFETY CONCEPTS:
4. INTENSIFIED INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SAFETY RESEARCH AND  
ENGINEERING.

THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE SUMMARIZED IN A WAY WHICH THE  
GENERAL PUBLIC CAN UNDERSTAND.

ENDS.

MORGAN

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ENERGY

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FM BONN 011535Z JUN 79

TC PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 266 OF 1 JUNE

INFO PRIORITY WASHINGTON, BRUSSELS, THE HAGUE, ROME, PARIS, UKREP

BRUSSELS, VIENNA (FOR IAEA RESREP) OTTAWA, TOKYO

INFO SAVING COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN, LUXEMBOURG

*Handwritten notes:*  
GWS  
GWS  
4/6

FEDERAL CHANCELLOR'S LETTER TO PRIME MINISTER: REACTOR SAFETY  
MIPT

1. ROUGET (FEDERAL FOREIGN MINISTRY) INFORMED COUNSELLOR (SCIENTIFIC) THAT THIS INITIATIVE WAS IN ACCORD WITH THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S STRONG BELIEF THAT GOVERNMENTS HAD IN GENERAL FAILED TO KEEP THE PUBLIC PROPERLY INFORMED ON NUCLEAR ENERGY MATTERS, THAT GOVERNMENTS MUST BE SEEN TO BE ACTING DECISIVELY ON A MATTER OF SERIOUS PUBLIC CONCERN, AND THAT THE RESULTS OF SUCH AN INVESTIGATION SHOULD BE PUBLISHED WIDELY. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT WERE NOT CONVINCED THAT ACTION BEING CONSIDERED BY THE IAEA DIRECTOR GENERAL TO SET UP A COMMITTEE OF INDEPENDENT EXPERTS WOULD MEET THE CASE AND AUTHORIZED HAUFF, MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY, TO PUT PROPOSALS IN A LETTER DATED 17 MAY TO EKLUND (COPY AND TRANSLATION FOLLOW BY BAG) WITH A VIEW TO HAVING THE SUGGESTIONS CIRCULATED AMONG IAEA MEMBERS AND PERHAPS RAISED AT THE JUNE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

2. ROUGET SUGGESTED THAT A FIXED TIME LIMIT EXERCISE, PERHAPS ON THE INFCE MODEL, MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE WITH A NUMBER OF WORKING GROUPS OF EXPERTS AND A TECHNICAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE. HE ACCEPTED THAT THE FRENCH INITIAL REACTION MIGHT BE LUKEWARM BUT HOPED THEY WOULD (AS WITH INFCE) BECOME ACTIVE COLLABORATORS. HE STRESSED THE NEED TO ALLOW FOR DIFFERENT NATIONAL APPROACHES TO QUESTIONS OF REACTOR SAFETY AND THE FREEDOM OF EACH STATE TO MAKE ITS DECISIONS IN THIS AREA. ALTHOUGH THE UNITED STATES HAD MADE IT CLEAR THEY WOULD PREFER INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSIONS (PERHAPS FOR 6 MONTHS) UNTIL SUCH TIME AS DISCUSSION WOULD NO LONGER BE DOMINATED BY THREE MILE ISLAND, ROUGET POINTED OUT THAT IT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL MONTHS BEFORE A FRAMEWORK FOR INTERNATIONAL DISCUSSION COULD BE SET UP.

13.

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3. ROUGET EXPLAINED THAT THE CHANCELLOR'S CALL FOR AN INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATION STEMMED FROM HIS VISIT TO BRAZIL IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THREE MILE ISLAND. THE ORIGINAL FRG/BRAZIL IDEA HAD BEEN TO REFER THE MATTER TO INFCE BUT IT WAS SOON REALISED THAT IT WAS NOT APPROPRIATE TO INFCE'S TERMS OF REFERENCE AND INFCE WAS IN ANY CASE ALREADY APPROACHING ITS FINAL STAGES.

FCO PLEASE PASS SAVING TO COPENHAGEN, DUBLIN AND LUXEMBOURG

WRIGHT

[REPEATED AS REQUESTED]

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PS/PUS

MR BUTLER

MR P.H. HOBGALY

SIR A DAY

MR BULLARD

MR FERGUSSON

FRD

c) Sir J. Hunt Co.  
Plazem ~~the~~ 154

- News



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FM VIENNA 011630Z JUNE 79

DESKBY FCO 011700Z

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 92 OF 1 JUNE 79

INFO PRIORITY BONN, TOKYO, OTTAWA, WASHINGTON, UKREP BRUSSELS  
AND PARIS.

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FOLLOWING FROM ACTING RESREP TO IAEA

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OPINION AND THE RIGHT OF EACH COUNTRY FREELY TO TAKE ITS OWN  
DECISION WOULD HAVE TO BE RESPECTED.

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*/ALL*

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ALL COUNTRIES INTERESTED IN NUCLEAR ENERGY SHOULD BE REQUESTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE STUDY. THE RESULTS SHOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE NOT ONLY TO THOSE INVOLVED AS WELL AS OTHER GOVERNMENTS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS BUT ALSO TO THE PUBLIC AT LARGE.

THE INTERNATIONAL ATOMIC ENERGY AGENCY (IAEA) IN VIENNA HAS A WORLD-WIDE MANDATE AS REGARDS THE PEACEFUL USE OF NUCLEAR ENERGY. IT WOULD THEREFORE BE WELCOMED IF THE IAEA ADOPTED THE PRESENT PROPOSAL FOR A CRITICAL EXAMINATION. THE IAEA WOULD BE ABLE TO MAKE USE OF THE VALUABLE WORK IT HAS ALREADY ACCOMPLISHED IN THIS FIELD. SOME OF THE PROCEDURES EMPLOYED IN THE ON-GOING INTERNATIONAL NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE EVALUATION (INFCE) COULD ALSO BE USED.

THE FOLLOWING ISSUES COULD BE EXAMINED:

1. EVALUATION OF THE SAFETY CONCEPTS FOR NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS, ALSO ON THE BASIS OF THE OPERATING EXPERIENCE GAINED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD:
2. COMPARISON OF THE BASIC SAFETY REQUIREMENTS TO BE APPLIED AND WAYS AND MEANS OF HARMONIZING THEM:
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4. INTENSIFIED INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN SAFETY RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING.

THE RESULTS OF THE STUDY SHOULD BE SUMMARIZED IN A WAY WHICH THE GENERAL PUBLIC CAN UNDERSTAND.

ENDS.

MORGAN

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MR. P. H. MOBERLY  
MR BULLARD  
MR FERGUSSON

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*Sir J. Hunt* } Cabinet Office  
*P. Cozzus* } Collofac  
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DESKBY 011700Z

FM VIENNA 011520Z JUNE 79

TELEGRAM NUMBER 90 OF 1 JUNE

INFO PRIORITY JOHN, TOKYO, OTTAWA, WASHINGTON. UKREP BRUSSELS  
PARIS

DISTRIBUTION  
FILE COPY

*Butler*  
*W*  
*4/6*

FOLLOWING FROM ACTING RESREP TO IAEA

TOKYO SUMMIT: GERMAN INITIATIVE ON NUCLEAR SAFETY

1. DAHLHOFF, CHARGE D'AFFAIRES OF THE FRG MISSION TO THE IAEA, HAS GIVEN ME COPIES OF A LETTER AND MEMORANDUM SENT BY THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE IAEA. TEXTS ARE IN MY TWO IFT'S.

2. DAHLHOFF EXPLAINED THAT THE LETTER AND MEMORANDUM RESULTED FROM A CABINET DECISION ON 14 MAY THAT AN INITIATIVE MUST BE TAKEN IN THE INTERNATIONAL FIELD CONCERNING THE SAFETY ASPECTS OF NUCLEAR POWER. HE SAID THAT THE FEDERAL CHANCELLOR HAD ADDRESSED LETTERS TO HEADS OF GOVERNMENT OF THREE GROUPS OF STATES. THE FIRST WAS TO PARTICIPANTS IN THE TOKYO SUMMIT. THE SECOND WAS TO MEMBERS OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY NOT ATTENDING THE SUMMIT. THE THIRD WAS TO MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE IAEA WHO WERE NOT IN EITHER OF THE TWO PRECEDING CATEGORIES.

3. DAHLHOFF SAID THAT THE DELIVERY OF THE LETTER TO THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAD COINCIDED WITH A MEETING OF SAFETY EXPERTS CONVENED ON THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S INITIATIVE. GAUSDEN WAS THE UK PARTICIPANT IN THAT MEETING. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAD ASKED THE MISSION OF THE FRG WHETHER HE SHOULD MAKE PARTICIPANTS IN THE EXPERT MEETING AWARE OF THE GERMAN INITIATIVE. HE HAD BEEN TOLD THAT THE FRG WOULD PREFER THAT HE SHOULD NOT MENTION IT UNTIL THE GROUND HAD BEEN PREPARED IN CAPITALS.

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4. DAHLHOFF SAID THAT HE HAD HAD NO REPEAT NO "OFFICIAL" REACTION FROM THE IAEA BUT THE DIRECTOR GENERAL'S PRELIMINARY REACTION HAD BEEN FAVOURABLE. SINCE THE DIRECTOR GENERAL HAS, IN THE AFTERMATH OF THE THREE MILE ISLAND INCIDENT, BEEN DETERMINED TO DEMONSTRATE THAT HE IS SEEKING FOR WAYS IN WHICH THE IAEA CAN ASSIST IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR SAFETY, AND SINCE THE LETTER FROM THE FEDERAL MINISTER FOR RESEARCH AND TECHNOLOGY IS ESSENTIALLY SUPPORTIVE OF ANY INITIATIVE HE MAY TAKE, IT COULD BE EXPECTED THAT THE OFFICIAL AGENCY REACTION WOULD ALSO BE POSITIVE.

5. I WAS CONTACTED TODAY BY MY CANADIAN COLLEAGUE WHO SOUGHT OUR VIEW ON THE GERMAN PROPOSAL. HE INDICATED THAT THE ATTITUDE OF HIS OWN GOVERNMENT WAS SOMEWHAT RESERVED. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO EXPAND ON THIS OR TO GIVE HIS REASONS.

6. A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE JAPANESE MISSION CALLED ON THE DIRECTOR OF THE LEGAL DIVISION OF THE IAEA EARLIER THIS WEEK. HE WISHED TO ADDRESS THE QUESTION OF THE AGENCY'S ROLE IN NUCLEAR SAFETY, BUT MADE NO REPEAT NO REFERENCE TO THE GERMAN INITIATIVE. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT IF NO OTHER COUNTRY SOUGHT TO MAKE REFERENCE TO THE SUBJECT IN THE FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE TOKYO SUMIT, JAPAN PROBABLY WOULD. HE REFERRED TO THE POSSIBILITY OF AN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON NUCLEAR SAFETY, BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR TO WHAT EXTENT HE WAS SPEAKING ON INSTRUCTIONS OR WAS EXPRESSING A PERSONAL VIEW.

7. AS SEEN FROM HERE, IT IS LIKELY THAT THE AGENCY WOULD WELCOME INITIATIVES AIMED AT BUILDING ON ITS PRESENT WORK IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR SAFETY. DAHLHOFF SPOKE TO ME IN TERMS OF CONSTRUCTING A "THIRD PILLAR" OF IAEA ACTIVITIES, VIZ SAFEGUARDS, TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE AND NUCLEAR SAFETY. THE ATTITUDE OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE IAEA IS, HOWEVER, UNCERTAIN. THEY WOULD CERTAINLY BE RESISTANT TO ANY EXERCISE WHICH THEY COULD INTERPRET AS LIMITING THEIR FREEDOM TO DEVELOP NUCLEAR POWER. THEY WOULD ALSO BE LIKELY TO RESIST PROPOSALS WHICH SUBSTANTIALLY INCREASED

# CONFIDENTIAL

THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE IAEA BUDGET. THE QUESTION OF THE AGENCY'S ACTIVITIES IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR SAFETY IS ON THE AGENDA OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO BE HELD FROM 26 JUNE. DEVELOPING COUNTRY ATTITUDES WILL BECOME CLEARER ON THAT OCCASION.

7. FCO PLEASE ADVANCE TO ALSTON, JNU, FCO, MANLEY, AE DIVISION DEPT OF ENERGY AND MOSS, AE DIVISION, DEPT OF ENERGY.

MORGAN

[ADVANCED AS REQUESTED]

## FILES

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MR MOSS } DEPT ENERGY

1) Sir J Hunt Co.  
12 Conzem, Esq.

Nero.D.S.



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 May 1979

BF 2/6/79

I enclose a copy of a letter which has been addressed to the Prime Minister by Chancellor Schmidt about the FRG initiative, directed to the IAEA, concerning international co-operation on the peaceful use of nuclear energy and the safety of nuclear power plants.

I should be grateful for advice on how the Prime Minister might respond to Chancellor Schmidt's letter, cleared as necessary with other interested Departments. It would be helpful if this advice could reach me not later than Tuesday 12 June.

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to Paul Lever (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Andrew Duguid (Department of Industry) and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

P G CARTLEDGE

Bill Burroughs, Esq.,  
Department of Energy.

GB

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10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

30 May 1979

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to thank you for your letter of 30 May with which you enclosed a message to the Prime Minister from the Federal Chancellor, Herr Helmut Schmidt.

I am of course bringing Chancellor Schmidt's letter to the Prime Minister's immediate attention.

fgc

His Excellency Herr Hans Hellmuth Ruete, GCVO.

London, 30th May, 1979

DER BOTSCHAFTER  
DER BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND

*Her Prime Minister,*

I have the honour to forward to Your Excellency the enclosed advance copy of a letter from the Federal Chancellor Helmut Schmidt dated May 28, 1979. A courtesy translation made by this Embassy is also attached.

The original letter will be sent from Bonn by next diplomatic pouch, and I shall forward it to you immediately upon receipt.

With the renewed assurance of my highest consideration

I am, dear Prime Minister,

*Yours sincerely*

*H. Ruete*

Hans Ruete

Her Excellency

The Rt.Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP

Her Majesty's Prime Minister and  
First Lord of the Treasury

L o n d o n



SUBJECT

Courtesy Translation

T 16A/79T

FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY  
The Federal Chancellor

Bonn, May 28, 1979

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 16A/79T

Dear Prime Minister,

In the national and international discussions safety of nuclear power plants has become an issue of paramount importance. In all countries of the world the questions related to reactor safety influence the public judgement of the peaceful use of nuclear energy.

The federal government, therefore, has approached the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Authority (IAEA) with the aim to carry out, in cooperation with all countries interested in the peaceful use of nuclear energy and under the aegis of this organization which holds a worldwide mandate in the field of the peaceful use of nuclear energy, a thorough investigation into the questions connected with the safety of nuclear power plants.

I should gratefully appreciate if your government gave their support to this initiative.

I have also undertaken to inform of this step of my government the other partners of the Tokyo summit meeting, the heads of

Her Excellency

The Prime Minister of the United Kingdom  
of Great Britain and Northern Ireland,

Mrs. Margaret Thatcher

L o n d o n

governments of those EEC-member states which will not be present in Tokyo, the President of the EEC-Commission as well as the heads of states or governments respectively of countries represented in the Board of Governors.

With kind regards,

Yours

signed

Helmut Schmidt

SUBJECT

PRIME MINISTER'S  
PERSONAL MESSAGE  
SERIAL No. T 16A / 795

BUNDESREPUBLIK DEUTSCHLAND  
DER BUNDESKANZLER

Bonn, den 28 . Mai 1979

Sehr geehrte Frau Premierminister,

die Sicherheit der Kernkraftwerke ist zu einem zentralen Thema der nationalen und internationalen Diskussion über die friedliche Nutzung der Kernenergie geworden. Die mit der Reaktorsicherheit verknüpften Fragen beeinflussen die öffentliche Bewertung der friedlichen Nutzung der Kernenergie in allen Ländern der Welt.

Die Bundesregierung ist daher an den Generaldirektor der Internationalen Atomenergie-Organisation (IAEO) herangetreten, um unter der Ägide dieser Organisation, die ein weltweites Mandat auf dem Gebiet der friedlichen Nutzung der Kernenergie besitzt, im Zusammenwirken aller an der friedlichen Nutzung der Kernenergie interessierten Staaten eine Untersuchung der mit der Sicherheit von Kernkraftwerken verbundenen Fragen durchzuführen.

Ich würde es dankbar begrüßen, wenn Ihre Regierung diese Initiative unterstützen würde.

Seiner Exzellenz  
dem Premierminister des  
Vereinigten Königreichs  
Großbritannien und Nordirland  
Frau Margret Thatcher

L o n d o n

Ich habe auch die Partner des Gipfeltreffens in Tokio, die Regierungschefs der Mitgliedstaaten der Europäischen Gemeinschaft, die in Tokio nicht vertreten sind, den Präsidenten der EG-Kommission sowie die Staats- bzw. Regierungschefs der Länder, die im Gouverneursrat vertreten sind, über den Schritt meiner Regierung unterrichtet.

Mit freundlichen Grüßen

Yours  
Helmut Kohl

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29 JUN 1979

END

Filmed at the National  
Archives (TNA) in London

February 2010