

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

BYM  
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.

CONFIDENTIAL

/2

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

CONFIDENTIAL

2

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

CONFIDENTIAL

**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.


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.

/over

(CONTINUE TYPING HERE)

File No.

  
CONFIDENTIAL

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.