



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 July 1981

Dear Christian,

Thank you for your letter of 7 July about Iraq's aims in the nuclear field. Douglas Hurd's letter to you on 16 July appears to cover most of the points you have raised.

I am not sure that comparing the intentions of Israel and Iraq as regards nuclear weapons is particularly helpful, bearing in mind that the former has not accepted the inspections required by the NPT whereas the latter has. The NPT is the cornerstone of our non-proliferation policy. More than 100 countries have signed it and none of these countries have violated it. If we behave as though NPT safeguards are of no significance at all, international confidence will be undermined. We have no reason to believe that safeguards are ineffective. In the specific case of Iraq, the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency has said that is no reason to question their efficacy. Douglas Hurd additionally pointed out that the French safeguards agreement commits Iraq, even if she were to denounce the NPT, to maintain IAEA safeguards on facilities supplied by France.

I continue to believe that the best chances for stability in the region lie in the establishment of a comprehensive peace settlement, and the accession of all states in the areas to the NPT including Israel.

Winston S. Churchill, Esq., M.P.

Yours sincerely
Rogers

259