

FROM THE MASTER
SIR ALAN COTTRELL, F.R.S.

THE MASTER'S LODGE
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AHC/IMM

27th February 1980

Michael Pattison, Esq.,
The Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

Dear Mr Pattison,

80 Energy (Policies) Pt 3. {
You will recall our recent correspondence on the pressure vessel reactor (your letter of 1 February refers). Since then two things have happened. First the Guardian newspaper by some means managed to acquire a copy of my correspondence with the Prime Minister, which I regard as a most unfortunate development. Second, on 20 February last I gave evidence to the Select Committee on Energy in the House of Commons and one of the members on that committee referred to the newspaper article. As a result the committee is now asking for my letter to the Prime Minister to be released to them. I enclose copies of the relevant correspondence with the committee.

I hope that I have taken up a correct position with them in this. If they have power to call for private correspondence to be released to them there will I suppose be no alternative, but I should say that I regarded my letter to the Prime Minister and her reply to me as entirely private and not a matter for publication in any form whatsoever.

Yours sincerely,

Alan Cottrell

Encl.

AHC/IMM

27th February 1980

D.F. Harrison, Esq.,
Clerk, Select Committee on Energy,
Committee Office,
House of Commons,
London SW1A 0AA.

Dear Mr Harrison,

Thank you for your letter with Mr Doig of 25 February. You referred to a recent letter of mine to the Prime Minister on pressure vessel integrity. And you asked if I would have any objection to supplying the Committee with a copy of that letter, assuming that the Prime Minister is agreeable. Since that letter was a private one from me to the Prime Minister and is now the property of the Prime Minister, I could not possibly agree to supplying the Committee with a copy of it unless the Prime Minister wished me to do so.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretary to the Prime Minister.

Yours sincerely,

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ENERGY
COMMITTEE OFFICE
HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

01-219 (Direct Line)
01-219 3000 (Switchboard)

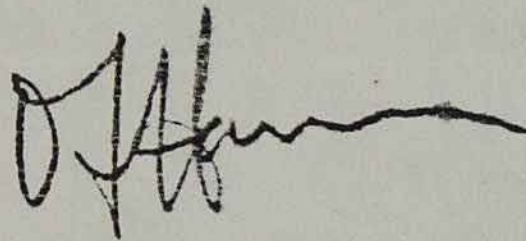
25 February 1980

Dear Sir Alan,

We should like to thank you on behalf of the Committee for the valuable evidence you gave on Wednesday. As you will recall your recent letter to the Prime Minister on pressure vessel integrity caused considerable interest and we have been instructed, informally in the first instance, to ascertain whether you would have any objection to supplying the Committee with a copy of the letter, assuming that the Prime Minister is agreeable.

I enclose a form for claiming expenses. You will receive a transcript of your evidence for checking in due course.

Yours sincerely,



D. DOIG
D. HARRISON

Sir Alan Cottrell,
Jesus College,
Cambridge.

Enc: