

A

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

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

24th March 1980

Dear Private Secretary,

Thank you for your letter of 14th March concerning the request from the Select Committee on Energy for a sight of Sir Alan Cottrell's letter to the Prime Minister on pressure vessel integrity.

The Committee have considered this reply and have instructed me to pursue the matter further both with the Prime Minister and Sir Alan. I attach a copy of my further letter to Sir Alan.

The Committee would be grateful, for the reasons set out in my letter to Sir Alan, if, subject of course to Sir Alan's reply, the Prime Minister would reconsider her original response. I have been asked particularly to stress the fact that the Committee would consider sympathetically any request not to give the letter wider publication, despite the fact that its confidentiality has been substantially breached in the Guardian newspaper.

*Yours sincerely,
David Doig*

D.W.W. Doig
Clerk to the Committee

The Private Secretary to the Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London. SW1.

Enc.

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24th March 1980

Sir Alan Cottrell, F.R.S.,
Master's Lodge,
Jesus College,
Cambridge.

Dear Sir Alan,

With reference to your letter of 27th February, I have been asked by the Committee to press you a little further on the matter of the letter which you wrote to the Prime Minister on pressure vessel integrity. I have also received a letter on the same subject from the Prime Minister's Private Secretary which you may have seen but of which I enclose a copy just in case.

The Committee feel themselves to be in some difficulty since both you and the Prime Minister appear to be saying that you are each prepared to release the letter only if the other agrees. In view of the fact that the letter has been quite extensively quoted in the Guardian and that the Committee would consider sympathetically any request not to give it wider publication, the Committee feel that their request is a reasonable one.

The Committee would therefore be most grateful if you would reconsider the reply contained in your letter of 27th February, in view of the Prime Minister's desire to "respect (your) wishes (.....) in this matter."

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

Enc.

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