

From: Ian Lloyd M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

115.

16/8

5th August 1980

Dear Prime Minister,

My Committee has given careful consideration to your letter of 9th July in reply to our request for the C.P.R.S. Report on the nuclear power plant programme.

I have been asked to convey the Committee's strongly held view that your reply appears to cast some doubt on the Government's willingness to follow through its undertaking to provide Select Committees with the information they consider they should have to discharge their onerous responsibilities. The Committee finds particular difficulty in making authoritative judgments about Government decisions when it is denied knowledge of the options which were open to Ministers at the time these decisions were taken and the advice on which they acted. We feel particularly concerned in the case of the nuclear power programme, partly because the record appears so unsatisfactory in so many respects, and moreover, vast sums have been, and are to be, expended on these programmes. For these reasons we felt that no stone should be left unturned in the efforts which we were making to understand why Government had taken the decisions which they had in recent years, particularly on the A.G.R. Programme.

The Committee has decided, with great reluctance, however, not to press the matter any further on this occasion. I have, nevertheless, been asked to make it clear that we do not regard this as a precedent for the future and that we must obviously reserve the fight to pursue, by whatever means are open to us, the production of evidence which we consider necessary to our enquiries.

Yours
Ian

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London.