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for
2nd
cell*

*Prime Minister (2)
MS*

PRIME MINISTER

SELLAFIELD

I have seen Patrick Jenkin's minute to you of 31 ~~May~~ as well as your comments and those of the Lord President, both of 4 ~~June~~.

I fully agree that the Sellafield plant itself must be the priority. I recently announced three new appointments to strengthen the Board of British Nuclear Fuels, and the Company themselves announced that they are giving top priority to finding ways to reduce discharges to much lower levels.

Nevertheless at any level of discharge that is practicable and reasonable it seems inevitable that Sellafield will continue to be the subject of very unpleasant media campaigns inspired by anti-nuclear activists. I agree with you and the Lord President that we should avoid any steps which would publicly identify West Cumbria as a problem area or encourage a "begging bowl" mentality. But I hope that Patrick Jenkin will consider how, short of this, the Government can best support the Company and the local community.

I am copying this minute to members of the Cabinet, to John Wakeham and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

20 June 1984

EN^v AFFAIRS: Sellafield

July 80



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