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PRIME MINISTER

PROPOSED NEW POLLUTION INSPECTORATE

I have seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 14 July.

My main interest is in the effectiveness of the Nuclear Inspectorates in relation to the operations of British Nuclear Fuels and the CEBG. As Sir Robert notes, both bodies have complained that they are exposed to duplication, delay and conflict; and Lord Marshall argues that the Radiochemical Inspectorate should be transferred to the HSE as the best way to ensure effective co-ordination of its activities with those of the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. I have some sympathy with Lord Marshall's view. However, I recognise that, at the present time, a transfer of RCI's work on licensed nuclear sites to the HSE would present difficulties.

I am therefore content with Sir Robert's proposal that the Radiochemical Inspectorate become part of the new Pollution Inspectorate and that administrative measures be taken to ensure adequate co-ordination between the various Inspectorates. For these to be successful it will be necessary for DoE and HSE to set out for Ministerial approval the steps they propose taking to improve co-ordination.

Copies of this minute go to the Lord President of the Council, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Employment, Environment, Trade and Industry, Scotland and Wales, the Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and Sir Robin Ibbs.

Secretary of State for Energy

24 July 1986



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