

File

TOKYO ECONOMIC SUMMIT : SOVIET NUCLEAR ACCIDENTLINE TO TAKE

1. We hope agreement can be reached on the following elements for a declaration:

- (a) express sympathy with the families and relatives of the victims.
- (b) Express deep concern at the Soviet Union's failure to give early warning and (even now) adequate information on this catastrophe which is seriously affecting neighbouring countries.
- (c) Request the Soviet Union to give a prompt and full account of what happened at Chernobyl and why.
- (d) Affirm the importance and viability of nuclear power programmes run with proper regard for safety.

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- (e) Initiate international discussions aimed at the mandatory disclosure of information on nuclear accidents with cross-border effects.

2. Doubt desirability of FRG suggestion that Soviet Union should be asked to close down all similar reactors until safety has been strengthened.

BACKGROUND

1. Chernobyl is the most serious nuclear accident to date. The Soviet government have so far provided meagre information, nowhere near what is needed. Full and prompt reporting on developments is essential, both to enable neighbouring countries to react appropriately and, in the longer term, to ensure that lessons are learned. The appropriate international body is the International Atomic Energy Agency, which has so far gone no further than adopting procedures for voluntary disclosure.

2. The FRG proposal would involve shutting off half the Soviet nuclear generating capacity and would be bound to be rejected on grounds of impracticality or of unwarranted interference in internal affairs, or both. We may however need to look at variations of the proposal, eg seeking assurances from the Soviet Union that these reactors will be modified in accordance with the lessons learned.