

010

ccpc

MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD  
WHITEHALL PLACE, LONDON SW1A 2HH



From the Minister

*JW no sel*  
*CDP*  
*'(X)*

The Hon William Waldegrave MP  
Minister of State  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 3EP

11 November 1986

PRESIDENCY HANDLING OF NUCLEAR ISSUES

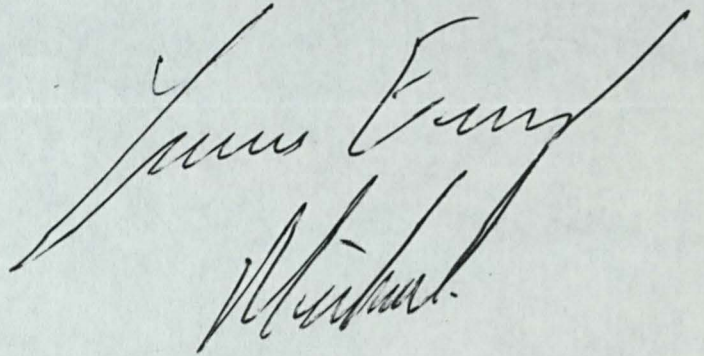
As one of the authorising Ministers under the 1960 Radioactive Substances Act I have been following the question of how we handle nuclear issues in the Community with some concern. My Department undertakes a large amount of work on the monitoring of nuclear power discharges and we hold strongly to the view that the emissions and consequences need to be judged in the light of circumstances at the site in order to determine the extent of any risk and to take full account of the ALARA principle. Since this requires careful analysis of the economic consequences at the locality we do not believe that global standards will meet the need since they will either be more costly than is necessary in some cases or not sufficiently conservative in others. We are therefore concerned that the Commission's philosophy of trying to obtain blanket figures should not be allowed free run. Indeed in this area we consider that national governments must retain the initiative.

In the UK nuclear regulatory matters are dealt with in a closely integrated regime involving the Department of Energy, the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate, DOE and MAFF in the context of the nuclear energy programme, and we would see dangers in trying to deal with policy piecemeal in Europe.

/ It is unfortunate ...

It is unfortunate that it now seems inevitable that nuclear issues will be discussed, if only briefly, by the Environment Council. I am particularly concerned about the suggestion made by the Belgians as incoming presidency that they consider the Environment Council should discuss matters relating to radioactivity standards in foodstuffs. This is a difficult subject and will need careful consideration. There are already a number of Community initiatives underway in the agriculture and health spheres and I can see no need for the Environment Council to get involved in this as well and indeed I can see that this could only lead to confusion.

4 I am sending copies of this letter to the Prime Minister, Geoffrey Howe, Peter Walker, Norman Fowler, Nicholas Ridley, David Young and John Moore.



The image shows a handwritten signature in dark ink. The signature is written in a cursive style and appears to read "James Evans". The signature is positioned above the printed name of the sender.

MICHAEL JOPLING

