

S/S Energy

211 3932 Energy

Consulted BT.

TDW Matthews office

OK if MOD & FCO agree. PM not
contactable

MUS 25/11

LETTER TO THE GUARDIAN

David Lowrie (Guardian 24 January 1983) goes to considerable lengths to try to demonstrate a link between CEGB's nuclear power stations and nuclear weapons. As the Minister responsible for nuclear energy in this country, I can assure him that there is none. No plutonium produced in any of the CEGB's nuclear power stations has ever been used for military purposes, and there are no plans to use it thus in the future. Further, no plutonium from our civil nuclear programme has ever been exported for weapons purposes either to the United States or anywhere else.

Governments worldwide have long been alert to the possibility that civil nuclear materials could be misused for military purposes. That is why there is a comprehensive and very effective system of international safeguard agreements to minimise the risks. However the development of a civil nuclear power programme is by no means the cheapest and most efficient route for a country intent upon developing nuclear weapons to take. An end to civil nuclear power in Britain would not change the nature of the proliferation threat by one iota. Thus to allege linkage of the two issues is wholly without foundation.

JOHN MOORE