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Energy

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

19 June 1979

Chancellor Schmidt's Message on Nuclear Safety

Sir Jack Rampton sent me, with his letter of 11 June (copied to you), the draft of a reply which the Prime Minister might send to Chancellor Schmidt's message to her of 28 May about an international initiative on nuclear safety.

The Prime Minister has approved the draft proposed and I now enclose the signed original of her reply to the Chancellor. I should be grateful if you would arrange for this to be sent to our Embassy in Bonn for delivery as soon as possible. You may also wish to telegraph the text in advance in case there is a chance of the reply being delivered to the Chancellor before the Prime Minister meets him in Strasbourg on 21 June.

I am sending copies of this letter and enclosure to Sir Jack Rampton (Department of Energy), Andrew Dluguid (Department of Industry), and Martin Vile (Cabinet Office).

RCC

Paul Lever, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Subject



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PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. D1 T30a/79r

Col. 9H

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19 June 1979

My dear Charullo,

I am grateful to you for telling me in your letter of 28 May of your Government's approach to the International Atomic Energy Agency about a study of the safety of nuclear power plants.

Nuclear power must make an important contribution to the free world's energy needs and public acceptability is an essential factor.

This means that the public have to be convinced that the risks such as they are - and there is no way there could be no risks - are kept to an acceptable minimum compared with the risks of any alternatives or lack of alternatives.

As I understand your proposal it is that there should be an international gesture and that in effect the IAEA should step up its efforts within the fields in which it already operates. I agree that it is important that this should be done.

At the same time, we must ensure that such reinforcement of the IAEA's activities should not take a form that would lead to a moratorium on nuclear power developments.

/We shall no doubt

We shall no doubt wish to consider at the Summit how these more intensive efforts should be presented and pursued to the best advantage.

May I say how much I welcome your concern.

Yours sincerely,

Raymond D. Holbert

His Excellency Herr Helmut Schmidt