

Subject.



Australia v10

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S

25 July 1980

PERSONAL MESSAGE

SERIAL No. T 151/80

Dear Prime Minister,

I take a close interest in nuclear matters and I am very conscious of the important position of Australia in this field and of the consideration you are giving to the choice of technology to use in your proposed uranium enrichment plant. As you are well aware, the Urenco/Centec organisation have developed the highly advanced centrifuge method of enrichment. This year the UK holds the chair of the Joint Committee of the collaboration and I am therefore delighted to be able to send you this message, which I have asked Peter Blaker to deliver, and which carries with it the full support of the West German and Netherlands Government.

Our three Governments fully support Urenco's participation in the study now in progress. Should you decide to go ahead with a plant we will be prepared to authorise the transfer of centrifuge technology to you.

We would of course wish to ensure that the arrangements were fully consistent with international non-proliferation arrangements and, following INFCE, we would wish to see some multinational element in the organisation. Because of Australia's own commitment to non-proliferation we are confident you will share our wish to achieve these objectives.

We are ready to discuss possible arrangements in more detail whenever you wish. I personally look forward to the prospect of a successful and fruitful co-operation between Urenco/Centec and Australia in this field.

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The Right Honourable Malcolm Fraser, C.H., M.P.