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MR. POWELL

CHERNOBYL: NUCLEAR SAFETY

I attach a copy of a letter from the Japanese Personal Representative, indicating that at dinner this evening his Prime Minister will propose the preparation of a statement on the safety of nuclear installations. We understand that the Japanese Government have the preparation of a draft in hand: judging by the synopsis in the letter it will cover the points which we wish to see made.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

4 May 1986

cc: Mr. Galsworthy  
Mr. Lewis  
UK Delegation

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May 4, 1986

Dear Colleague,

Prime Minister Nakasone feels it appropriate to issue a separate statement on the safety of nuclear installation and intends to put forward, during today's dinner meeting, a proposal to have such a statement prepared.

We envisage such a statement, if agreed, to contain the following points.

- Responsibility of all countries to secure safety and to provide prompt information in case of accidents.
- Concern about the Soviet accident
- Request to the Soviet Government for provision of information
- Readiness to extend assistance
- Following efforts to be made under the auspices of the IAEA
  - (1) promotion of international cooperation on nuclear safety
  - (2) Improvement of nuclear accident information exchange system
  - (3) establishment of effective means of responding to the need for mutual assistance
- Reaffirmation of the need to advance nuclear energy utilization

I would like to appoint, again if agreed, Ambassador Yoshifumi Matsuda, Director-General for Scientific and Technological Affairs of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as our contact person. (Nuclear Energy Division, MOFA at 581-3518 or Suisen-no-ma, Hotel New Otani at 265-1111 ext. 2328, or 597-1861)

Sincerely yours,



Reishi Teshima

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**STATEMENT ON  
THE IMPLICATIONS OF THE CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT**

May 5, 1986

1. We, the Heads of State or Government of seven major industrial nations and the Representatives of the European Community, have discussed the implications of the accident at the Chernobyl nuclear power station. We express our deep sympathy for those affected. We remain ready to extend assistance, in particular medical and technical, as and when requested.
2. Nuclear power is and, properly managed, will continue to be an increasingly widely used source of energy. For each country the maintenance of safety and security is an international responsibility, and each country engaged in nuclear power generation bears full responsibility for the safety of the design, manufacture, operation and maintenance of its installations. Each of our countries meets exacting standards. Each country, furthermore, is responsible for prompt provision of detailed and complete information on nuclear emergencies and accidents/ in particular those with potential transboundary consequences. Each of our countries accepts that responsibility, and we urge the Government of the Soviet Union, which did not do so in the case of Chernobyl, to provide urgently such information, as our and other countries have requested.
3. We note with satisfaction the Soviet Union's willingness to undertake discussions this week with the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). We expect that these discussions will lead to the Soviet Union's participation in the desired post-accident analysis.
4. We welcome and encourage the work of the IAEA in seeking to improve international cooperation on the safety of nuclear installations, the handling of nuclear accidents and their consequences, and the provision of mutual emergency assistance. Moving forward from the relevant IAEA guidelines, we urge the early elaboration of an international convention committing the parties to report and exchange information in the event of nuclear emergencies or accidents. This should be done with the least possible delay.