

Prime Minister ①

John Fairclough has now checked with DOE and Brian Urwin and they are content for him to explore with his scientific colleagues whether there are any gaps in our knowledge which Chemistry

W0957

MR ADDISON - No. 10

7 May 1986

has agreed advice which needs to be filled.

Cabinet office have provided an explanatory note (attached).

Content, subject to existing this work does not cut across other initiatives or enquiries?  
MEA 14/5

Yes

CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR REACTOR ACCIDENT

At the present time the main concern of Ministers is rightly the immediate domestic and international issues arising from the accident. However, there are a number of important longer-term scientific and technical implications which will have to be addressed.

2. It is my intention to convene a meeting at Chief Scientist level, when the immediate operational activity has abated, to establish what questions need to be asked and who will be answering them. I consider it important to ensure at an early stage that adequate steps are being taken to ensure that we learn all possible lessons from this accident and that there is proper coordination of the different strands.

3. If the Prime Minister is content with this approach, I will proceed as above and report back to her when I see her on 3 June.

JOHN FAIRCLOUGH  
Chief Scientific Adviser

DISASTERS: Chernobyl - April 86



CF.  
Fupla

10 DOWNING STREET

Nigel Wicks - for info.

I have spoken to Michael  
Stark and to John Fowdery L.

John F. will speak to RIA, bearing  
in mind the need to avoid cutting  
across other work going on in Whitehall,  
and come back to us.

MEA

MEA 8/5

Noted

NW

8-5

CF

W08

MR ADDISON - No. 10

13 May 1986

CHERNOBYL NUCLEAR ACCIDENT

MSJ(RM) is to provide  
more info on what he is  
actually proposing to do.  
HGA 13/5

As a result of my minute of 7 May you expressed fears about possible duplication of existing initiatives.

2. The matter has now been discussed with DOE officials and Mr Waldegrave, and with Brian Unwin in his capacity of Chairman of the Civil Contingencies Unit. These discussions have been useful in clarifying what other initiatives are planned, but there is agreement that what I am proposing complements, rather than duplicates, them.

3. I therefore hope that you are content for me to proceed.

4. I am copying this minute to Michael Stark.



JOHN W FAIRCLOUGH  
Chief Scientific Adviser

Soviet Nuclear Accident: DISASTERS

Apr 86

