

June 9, 2000

Mr. Paul Leventhal, President
Mr. Alan J. Kuperman, Senior Policy Analyst
Nuclear Control Institute
1000 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 804
Washington, D.C. 20036

Dear Messrs. Leventhal and Kuperman:

Thank you for your letter of May 9, 2000, concerning issues related to the export of high-enriched uranium (HEU) to MDS Nordion in Canada for the production of medical isotopes. NRC's Office of International Programs has forwarded your letter to the Executive Branch with a request that the issues raised be addressed in the Executive Branch's forthcoming reports to the Commission, as required by the Commission's June 29, 1999 Memorandum and Order.

MDS Nordion submitted its yearly status report detailing the progress of the program and Canadian cooperation in developing low-enriched uranium targets for the Multipurpose Applied Physics Lattice Experiment (MAPLE) reactors on May 31, 2000. The Commission expects the Executive Branch's annual status report no later than July 1, 2000.

I note also that you have written to the Atomic Energy Control Board -- now renamed the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) -- in Canada on these matters. Any CNSC comments or actions in this issue will also be of interest to the Commission. I will travel to Canada in mid-June and will have meetings with the CNSC and MDS Nordion, as well as visit the Chalk River Laboratories where the MAPLE reactors are located.

I would be happy to meet with you to discuss this matter further. I want to assure you that the Commission will carefully consider your comments and the comments of all other interested parties as it conducts its review of this export activity under the terms of the referenced Memorandum and Order.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve