


Files

MEMO ROUTE SLIP Form AEC-93 (Rev. May 14, 1947) AECM 0240		See me about this. Note and return.	For concurre For signature.	For action. For information.
TO (Name and unit) Chris Henderson Asst Dir, Reg. Bethesda	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS Chris - Attached is a draft cable on the proposed Agency letter re "Accident in the Sea" we talked about last Friday. Would appreciate discussing with you by 'phone "soonest".		
TO (Name and unit) CWA	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS		
TO (Name and unit) R. Slawson DIA	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS 9/30/49 - Henderson phoned Slawson indicating he had no problem with this document		
PHONE NO. 3110	DATE 9/29			

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

GPO : 1968 O-294-619

DRAFT

RNSlawson:ejm

9/29/69

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SUBJECT: DRAFT IAEA LETTER ON "ACCIDENT IN THE SEA"

1. AEC has been informally provided with a copy of an internal draft IAEA letter by Keckes, Monaco Marine Laboratory, prepared by Division Health, Safety, Waste Disposal and Monaco Laboratory, which, if approved, would be sent to governments of several advanced countries, including U.S., requesting comments on broad range of topics relating to hypothetical accidents involving peaceful uses of nuclear energy which might result in some release radioactivity into marine environment. (Copy air pouched to Vanderryn.) List includes, inter alia, nuclear-powered ships, land-based nuclear facilities, and Plowshare devices, as well as "accidents involving loss or failure of devices containing radionuclides" and other topics which need some clarification. Draft states comments to be requested are designed help Agency identify possible potential problem areas and define programs or recommendations Agency might consider for dealing with them, pursuant Article III of Statute which quote requires unquote (in lieu quote authorized unquote as used in Statute) Agency take appropriate steps protect man from harmful affects radiation. Draft apparently related to proposed Agency panel on "Technical Measures in Case of Radioactive Contamination of Any Sea Area" listed page 16 of 1970 budget.
2. AEC staff has reviewed draft and believes list of topics much too broad, and in several instances unclear, as basis for Agency to formally seek views of governments on possible Agency role this area in connection proposed panel. FYI. Questionnaire could also provide opportunity for politically inspired responses on some topics by Soviets or others, which, in light of contemplated procedure of sending

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formal letter to governments, could receive wide dissemination End FYI.

3. Believe it would be much preferable for Agency to either (1) have group of expert consultants review draft and provide recommendations to Agency on scope of agenda for proposed panel meeting; or (2) have proposed panel itself consider substance of draft (which hopefully could be modified in some respects) with objective providing its views and recommendations to DG re Agency role, if any, this general area. In either case, however, we would expect experts to participate as individual specialists in their area and not rpt not represent Governments. U.S. would be prepared participate under either alternative on this basis.

4. Request Mission ascertain status of draft within Secretariat, and, if necessary, convey views in paras two and three above to appropriate Agency staff, including DG if necessary. In doing so, indicate Keckes informally sent draft to AEC staff member as follow up informal conversations on proposed panel during visit U.S. in June.

5. Advise results soonest.