

March 19, 2002

Dr. József Rónaky
Director General
Hungarian Atomic Energy Authority
H-1539 Budapest II
114 - POB 676
Hungary

Dear Dr. Rónaky:

Thank you for your January 8, 2002 letter regarding the newly formed Hungarian working group on combating nuclear terrorism. I agree that each country must take appropriate measures to ensure the safety of the nuclear facilities in their territories, and, where feasible, should cooperate with like-minded states to enhance worldwide nuclear safety. Let me share with you some of the activities we have undertaken in this area.

Following the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, U.S. nuclear licensees implemented various security measures. Because the generalized high-level threat environment has persisted longer than expected, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) has concluded that it should maintain certain interim security measures within a regulatory context. I have enclosed an Order that was issued on February 26 to all 104 commercial nuclear power plants to implement these interim compensatory measures. The attachments to the Order have been removed to protect safeguards information. I have also included a Press Release entitled "NRC Orders Nuclear Power Plants to Enhance Security" and a copy of a speech entitled, "Nuclear Security in the Post-September 11 Environment" that I presented January 17, 2002. In light of your initiative, these documents may prove useful.

In order to be in a better position to gauge what else might be useful to your working group, I would appreciate receiving information concerning the goals and proposed actions of the group, the names and responsibilities of the participating agencies, and other relevant information. As we review your request for assistance in this activity, it would also be helpful if you could outline the specific role you envision for the NRC. I am designating Ms. Donna-Marie Perez, Hungarian desk officer in the NRC Office of International Program, as the NRC point of contact. She can be reached at (301) 415-2848, or at <dmp@nrc.gov>

I look forward to continuing our dialogue on this most important subject.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Richard A. Meserve

Enclosures: As stated