

EDO Principal Correspondence Control

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FINAL REPLY:

Tom Falvey
San Diego, California

TO:

Chairman Meserve

FOR SIGNATURE OF :

** GRN **

CRC NO: 02-0589

Zimmerman, NSIR

DESC:

Nuclear Power Plant Safety

ROUTING:

Travers
Paperiello
Kane
Norry
Craig
Burns/Cyr

DATE: 09/11/02

ASSIGNED TO:

CONTACT:

NSIR

Zimmerman

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS OR REMARKS:

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AUTHOR: Tom Falvey (CA)
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EDO --G20020537

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September 5, 2002

Dear *CHAIRMAN MESSAVE,*

When will Iraq get the Bomb? They already have it. Maybe not in the form of an explosive device. Definitely in terms of 120 American nuclear power plants.

A nuclear power plant cannot explode as a mushroom cloud (its fuel is not concentrated enough). But, if melted down, it can release many times the radiation of a Hiroshima size bomb. Such a radioactive plume, engulfing a major city, could kill millions: slowly and in agony.

There is no feasible defense against such an attack. Terrorists can sabotage any plant in a variety of ways.

The last Gulf War had limited aims. The next one will be about survival. Saddam's is at stake, but ours could be too. Irradiation of a large city would disrupt our complex financial system. The resulting economic collapse might well change the nature of our society.

Even in peacetime nuclear power plants are more trouble than they're worth. That's why no new ones have been built for 20 years. In wartime they are an overwhelming liability. Therefore they should be shut down. This would mean curtailing our extravagant waste of energy. However, efficient technologies, some as simple as florescent light bulbs, could quickly replace the loss.

This war might be necessary. If so we should take elementary precautions against obvious threats. Failure to do so would be criminally negligent.

Sincerely,



Tom Falvey

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Richard Messer, Chairman
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