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UNITED STATES  
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

INFORMATION REPORT

April 16, 1979

SECY-79-263

For: The Commissioners

From: James R. Shea, Director  
Office of International Programs

Thru: Executive Director for Operations *JR Shev LUG.*

Subject: MEETING WITH MEMBER OF DUTCH PARLIAMENT

Purpose: To inform the Commission of recent discussions with a member of the Dutch Parliament.

Discussion: Mr. Jan Van Houwelingen, Chairman of the Nuclear Energy Committee of the Parliament of the Netherlands, met with Messrs. Shea and Oplinger on April 12, 1979.

Most of the discussion concerned NRC's role in the nuclear export licensing process, and in the formulation of US non-proliferation policy. Mr. Van Houwelingen was particularly interested in our views on whether, given the strong views of a number of industrialized countries in favor of reprocessing, the US policy of deferring and discouraging national reprocessing could be sustained. He noted that he had received a strongly pessimistic assessment in his conversations at the U.S. Department of Energy on this point. He said that he had been and remained closely involved with the Dutch Parliament's consideration of URENCO assistance to Brazil. He had opposed the Brazilian supply contract without a reprocessing veto, but said that in the end the Dutch had to choose between accepting a compromise solution or risking a German withdrawal from URENCO and establishment of the FRG as an independent supplier of enriched fuel. He thought the final outcome was still moot, however, and believed that the Netherlands would not go along with

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supplying Brazil unless a satisfactory plutonium storage regime is worked out.

Mr. Houweling was also interested in the NRC's role in reviewing the safety aspects of nuclear exports. Mr. Shea indicated that the NRC's interest and activity in this area has been growing rapidly, and explained the present situation with respect to the Executive Order and its implications for nuclear exports. Mr. Houweling said that he thought it essential that some international approach be worked out on this question, for two reasons. First, without a common approach, safety would become a matter of commercial competition among reactor vendors. Second, in areas like Europe where accidents might easily affect neighboring countries, a bilateral approach to ensuring reactor safety was insufficient.

  
James R. Shea, Director  
Office of International Programs

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