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March 13, 1979

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The Honorable Zbigniew Brzezinski  
Assistant to the President for National  
Security Affairs  
The White House  
Washington, D. C. 20500

POOR ORIGINAL

Dear Dr. Brzezinski:

Presently, you have under review a request to consider the use of military facilities for the shipment of highly enriched uranium. Last October an Air Force report on this subject entitled, "Feasibility of Utilizing Military Air Bases for Shipment of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU)," was submitted to you. I would like to make two observations about that study.

First, the NRC, as an independent regulatory agency, cannot take a lead role in formulating Administration policy on the use of military airfields to ship commercial HEU. Thus, the NRC staff's participation in providing data for the Air Force's study should not be interpreted as an endorsement of conclusions and recommendations. I am concerned that this role has not been explicitly stated in the study.

To ensure that our role in the development of the study is made clear, I recommend a supplementary sheet, such as the enclosed, explicitly stating NRC's role in the study preparation be included with distributed copies.

Second, I wish to note that the study did not address the use of the military side of civilian controlled airports, such as O'Hare, as an alternative to the use of military airports as discussed in our letter of April 28, 1978.

We are looking forward to your decision in regard to the use of military airfields or the military side of civilian airports. If we can be of assistance, please let us know.

Sincerely,

*Chairman (2)*

C/R NOTE: This letter has been coordinated with all Commissioners. Their responses are:

Original Signed by  
Joseph M. Hendrie

- Chairman - Concurs
- Commissioner Kennedy - Concurs
- Commissioner Bradford - Concurs
- Commissioner Ahearne - concurs
- Commissioner Gilinsky - nonconcurs; prefers deletion of Supplementary Sheet.

Enclosure: Supplementary Sheet	SECY:C/R GSchuetze	OCM Dorie	OCM JMHendrie	1381	070
BURNAME > NMSS	3/9/79	3/12/79	3/12/79		
DATE >					

SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET

to

Department of the Air Force Study

Entitled

"Feasibility of Utilizing Military Air Bases  
for Shipment of Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU)"

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's staff provided some of the data used in this study. This participation, however, does not constitute an NRC endorsement of the study conclusions and recommendations.

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