



Department of Energy
Washington, D.C. 20585

SEP 21 1979

V. Wellman

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission

FROM:

Christina L. Rathkopf
Christina L. Rathkopf
Executive Secretary

SUBJECT:

Correspondence Referral

The attached correspondence has been misdirected to this Department for reply. Inasmuch as it appears to fall within the purview of your agency, we are referring this communication herewith for your reply. We have informed the writer of this action.

Thank you for your attention.

Mrs. Carol Whitney
34 Lewis Street
Binghamton, N.Y. 13901

Referred By: Mary Martha Seal
Referral Date: August 22, 1979

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THE WHITE HOUSE

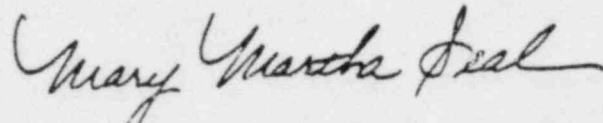
WASHINGTON

AUG 22 1979

MEMORANDUM:

The attached letter(s) addressed to the President is referred to your office for suitable acknowledgment or other appropriate handling at the earliest opportunity. Should you receive mail that has been misdirected, please forward to the appropriate agency. I would also appreciate knowing when you are forwarding such mail. My phone number is 456-2717.

Thank you.



Mary Martha Seal
Director
Correspondence Agency Liaison

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DOE

34 LEWIS ST.
BINGHAMTON, N.Y. 13901
AUGUST 16, 1979

DEAR PRESIDENT CARTER:

PLEASE ENCLOSURE AND SEAL IN
CONCRETE THE THREE MILE ISLAND
PLANT THAT NEARLY HAD A MELT-
DOWN. THEY WANT TO RELEASE
THE GASSES INTO THE ATMOSPHERE
AND THEY WANT TO POUR THE
RADIOACTIVE WATER INTO OUR
DRINKING SUPPLY ALL FOR
MONEY SO THEY CAN RE-OPEN.

ENCLOSED IS ARTICLE

YOU ARE A GOOD MAN.

YOURS TRULY,

MRS CAROL WHITNEY

Scientist: Shut 3-Mile Island

By LOIS FECTEAU

The Three Mile Island nuclear power plant should be "shut down forever and sealed in concrete as a monument to the folly of the nuclear industry," Michio Kaku, the first anti-nuclear scientist allowed by Metropolitan Edison Co. to tour the crippled Middletown, Pa., plant, said yesterday.

Plans announced this week to vent what utility officials called safe levels of radioactive air into the atmosphere this fall are "ludicrous," Kaku, a nuclear physicist at the City College of New York, said in an interview.

"The plans show very little concern for people's lives. There are no safe levels of radiation in a situation like this. It's like saying someone is a little pregnant," he said.

"Utility officials at the reactor told me that they plan to vent the radioactive gases, including Krypton 85, with no filtration. Now, Krypton 85 has a biological life of 100 years, which means that in 100 years it will still be radioactive. It's a very heavy gas which hugs the earth and there will be a very real danger of it getting into people's lungs."

People in Binghamton also could be affected by these releases, Kaku said, particularly if the winds are blowing north.

"During the March 28 accident, the winds were blowing north, not southeasterly as is usual. I have seen the meteorology charts. The same thing could happen this fall. You are only 120 miles away."

Kaku, who was in Binghamton yesterday for a lecture and slide show sponsored by the Susquehanna Safe Energy Alliance, toured the plant facility a week and a half ago. During his tour, he said, he was accompanied by Robert Long, a General Public Utilities physicist and Jack Herbine, the Met-Ed vice president who as a utility spokesman became a familiar figure to

television audiences during the crisis.

"They are humbled by Three Mile Island and I was surprised at just how damaged they admitted the core to be," Kaku said.

About 90 percent of the reactor core was damaged and about 75 percent of it was uncovered during the accident, Kaku said he was told. (The core is where fissionable fuel reacts to produce heat that turns water into steam to power electrical generators.)

The key thing I want to get across is that reactors are built for profit. . . . That reactor was rushed into commission to qualify for a \$40 million tax break and they want to get it back on the line, even if it kills us. And it might. . . .

*Michio Kaku
nuclear physicist*

"Those are the official figures now. What is incredible is that the uncovering happened just two and one half hours into the accident and the transcripts show that Met-Ed officials waited three hours before reporting the accident," Kaku said.

The damage is even more extensive than Kaku said he imagined. "It came very close to a meltdown. They were very lucky. We were very lucky," he said.

Kaku, 32, who taught at Princeton and Harvard before moving to City College of New York six years ago, also was critical of utility plans to attempt to purify 226,000 gallons of contaminated water and discharge them into the Susquehanna River.

"People depend on that river for their drinking supplies. The prospects for poten-

tial cancers are just unbelievable. I say, let the utility officials drink the water if it's going to be so safe," he said.

Kaku suggests that concrete should be mixed with the water and the slabs stored on site. He said the utility is hesitant to consider such a plan "because of the cost."

"The key thing I want to get across is that reactors are built for profit. Billions have been sunk into this industry and they want to get their money back. That reactor was rushed into commission to qualify for a \$40 million tax break and they want to get it back on the line, even if it kills us. And it might. . . ." Kaku said.

People should protest loudly and vigorously against utilities' proposals and against nuclear power, Kaku said. "Community protest is the only thing they understand. We are not powerless," he said.

Utility companies are misleading the public "when they say that without nuclear power plants we will have blackouts and brownouts," Kaku said.

"Nuclear power plants are such lemons that they are shut down regularly anyway and we don't suffer any of these 'catastrophes.'"

As an example, Kaku cited the Indian Point plant operated by Con Edison outside New York City. "This summer that plant was shut down twice in 10 days and New York City had enough excess capacity electricity to operate without any disaster. The nuclear industry is like a wounded tiger and I say we should put it out of its misery."

Also, many viable alternative forms of energy to nuclear power exist, Kaku said.

"We have enough oil and coal to last 20 years," he explained. "They should be stressed during a transition period while we develop alternative sources such as solar, wind and geothermal. The more I know about nuclear power plants, the more I think they should be shut down. The dangers are just too great."