



CHAIRMAN

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20555

January 24, 1994

Dr. Roland Naegelin
Director, Swiss Federal Nuclear
Safety Inspectorate
CH-5232 Villigen
Switzerland

Dear Dr. Naegelin:

When I had the pleasure of visiting you on January 3, we discussed nuclear safety assistance to the former Soviet Union. In this regard you may be interested in my testimony of October 28, 1993, at a hearing before the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the U.S. Senate regarding this country's efforts to improve the safety of Soviet-designed nuclear reactors. I am enclosing a copy of my statement before the Committee for your information.

My remarks were based on the impressions I formed during my trip to Central and Eastern Europe in October. In comparison to what I saw during my previous visits to the same areas in 1991 and 1992, I can report progress on the material condition of many of the plants, in the sensitivity of the leaders of these countries to the safety concerns of the West, and in the development of independent regulatory bodies.

I am equally encouraged by the recent formation of a Joint Commission on Energy and Space co-chaired by Vice President Gore and Prime Minister Chernomyrdin. The results of the meetings of the Joint Commission lead me to believe that nuclear safety improvements in the countries of Central and Eastern Europe will now be undertaken in the context of an overall energy strategy that will emphasize market forces, market pricing of energy, and viable alternatives to the least safe nuclear power plants.

I look forward to our continuing exchange of views and cooperation on this important international safety issue.

Sincerely,

Ivan Selin

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PDR COMMS NRCC
CORRESPONDENCE PDR

Enclosure:
Statement of Ivan Selin

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