

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

January 24, 1994

Dr. Kunihiko Uematsu
Director General
OECD/Nuclear Energy Agency
LeSeine-Saint Germain
12, boulevard des Iles
92130
Issy Les Moulineaux
France

Dear Dr. Uematsu:

On October 28, 1993, I testified 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. Previously, this material was sent to you on November 5, but apparently, you did not receive it.

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

Enclosure: Statement of Ivan Selin

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Jean Syrota Chairman, COGEMA 2 rue Paul-Dautier, PO4 78141 Velizy-Villacoubley Cedex France

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