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PAGE 01 OF 02 PARIS 14949 00 OF 03 011053Z
ACTION PM-00

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PARIS 14949 00 OF 03 011053Z

SHC3044

INFO LOG-00 ACDA-17 ACDE-00 AID-00 CEA-01 CEQ-01 CIAE-20
COME-00 CTRE-00 DASY-20 DINT-01 DODE-00 ITCE-00 EB-00
EXME-00 EUR-00 E-00 FRD-01 H-01 TEDE-00 INR-00
IO-16 ITC-01 L-00 ADS-00 NRC-01 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
NSF-01 DES-00 UIC-02 OMB-01 OPIC-01 PRS-01 SMP-00
SP-00 SSD-00 SS-00 STR-01 TRSE-00 T-00 USIE-00
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R 010953Z JUN 94
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5618
USDOE WASHDC
USDOE GERMANTOWN MD
EPA WASHDC
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
USMISSION USVIENNA

UNCLAS PARIS 14949

FROM USDOE

PM/NE FOR STRATFORD; NEWSTEAD
PM/SC FOR KESSLER
EUR/RPE FOR TRACY; TOWNSWICK
DOE/PO-1 FOR TIERNEY; RIGGS
DOE/PO-4 FOR HARRIS; BRADLEY; WORKMAN
DOE/PO-7 FOR BRODMAN; LEE
DOE/NE-14 FOR ROSEN; WEBER

PASS NRC FOR STOIBER; GORN
EPA/OIA FOR COUGH
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E.O. 12356: N/A
TAGS: AORC, ENRG, TRCY, NRC, NEA, SEMV, EPA, KSCA, OECD
SUBJECT: OECD: NUCLEAR ENERGY AGENCY (NEA) - COMMITTEE
FOR TECHNICAL AND ECONOMIC STUDIES ON NUCLEAR ENERGY
DEVELOPMENT AND THE FUEL CYCLE (NDC) - MEETING ON
FUTURE DIRECTIONS - MAY 19-20, 1994

SUMMARY

1. THE BRAINSTORMING MEETING WAS CONVENED TO CONSIDER
POTENTIAL NEW DIRECTIONS FOR THE NDC. PARTICIPANTS
IDENTIFIED KEY ISSUES IMPEDING NUCLEAR POWER TO
INCLUDE: SAFETY OF NUCLEAR REACTORS; ENVIRONMENTAL
IMPACTS OF NUCLEAR POWER; WASTE DISPOSAL; PROLIFERATION;
AND ECONOMICS. EXCLUDING NON-PROLIFERATION (OUTSIDE THE
NEA MANDATE); THE ISSUES WERE GROUPED UNDER THREE
CATEGORIES FOR FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION: ECONOMICS;
RESOURCE MANAGEMENT; AND INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND NEW
CONCEPTS. THE SECRETARIAT WILL PRODUCE A REPORT TO THE
NDC TO BE CONSIDERED AT THE JUNE 15-16, 1994, NDC
MEETING.

U.S. PARTICIPATION

2. THE U.S. WAS REPRESENTED BY DR. CLIFF WEBER, OFFICE
OF NUCLEAR ENERGY, DOE.

BACKGROUND

9710210247 940601
PDR ORG EUSUSEMB
PDR

3. THE MEETING TOOK PLACE IN REACTION TO A PAPER THAT
WAS PRESENTED BY THE NEA SECRETARIAT AT THE JANUARY,
1994, MEETING OF THE NDC. THE PAPER, WHICH ATTEMPTED TO
FOCUS ON FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THE NDC, WAS ALL OVER THE
PLACE. AS A RESULT, COMMITTEE MEMBERS FELT THE NEED TO
HAVE A SPECIAL MEETING TO DISCUSS IN GREATER DEPTH WHERE
MEMBERS FELT NDC SHOULD FOCUS ITS RESOURCES IN THE
FUTURE.

POTENTIAL FUTURE ACTIVITY AREAS

4. AS A RESULT OF THE INTERCHANGE OF IDEAS AMONG
PARTICIPANTS, THE FOLLOWING THREE CATEGORIES WERE
IDENTIFIED FOR FOLLOW-ON DISCUSSION:

A) COSTS AND ECONOMIC IMPACTS: POTENTIAL ACTIVITIES
IDENTIFIED INCLUDED:

- AVOIDABLE COSTS SUCH AS UNNECESSARY REGULATION;
LICENSE RENEWAL COSTS AND DELAYS; FINANCIAL RISKS;
EXTERNALITIES; AND IMPACT ON COST OF CHANGING
ELECTRICITY GENERATION INFRASTRUCTURE (E.G. INDEPENDENT
POWER PRODUCERS).

B) RESOURCE MANAGEMENT: COUNTRY TO COUNTRY DIFFERENCES
IN LIMITS ON RADIOACTIVITY LEVELS SET FOR LOW-LEVEL
WASTE AND RELEASES FROM HIGH-LEVEL WASTE WERE NOTED. IT
WAS SUGGESTED THAT:

- THE NDC INTERACT WITH THE OECD ENVIRONMENTAL AND
WASTE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEES TO IDENTIFY DIFFERENCES AND
ASSOCIATED COSTS.

- IT WAS AGREED THAT THE RED BOOK SHOULD CONTINUE TO RE
GENERATED BUT SOME MEMBERS QUESTIONED THE FREQUENCY.

- THE QUESTION OF MANAGEMENT AND UTILIZATION OF
PLUTONIUM WAS DISCUSSED RATHER EXTENSIVELY, INCLUDING
HOW TO MANAGE EXCESS WEAPONS PLUTONIUM IN ORDER TO
INFORM GOVERNMENTS THAT IT COULD BE MANAGED. IT WAS
AGREED THAT NDC ACTIVITIES WOULD BE RESTRICTED TO
MANAGEMENT OF CIVILIAN PLUTONIUM. THIS POSITION WAS
STRONGLY SUPPORTED BY THE NEA SECRETARIAT, THE U.S., THE
U.K. AND JAPAN.

C) INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND NEW CONCEPTS: THE
CHAIRMAN INTRODUCED THIS CATEGORY BY QUESTIONING WHETHER
ANY OR ALL OF THE FOLLOWING FOUR TOPICS SHOULD BE

CONSIDERED: SAFETY AS A FUNCTION OF REACTOR TYPE (E.G.,
UP TO INHERENTLY SAFE REACTORS); ZERO RELEASE OF
RADIOACTIVITY; THORIUM CYCLE; AND A COMBINED
NUCLEAR/FOSSIL CYCLE TO CAPTURE CARBON DIOXIDE AND
CONVERT IT INTO A USABLE PRODUCT (E.G., ETHANOL). A
MAJOR CONCERN EXPRESSED BY SOME WAS THAT GOVERNMENTS
MUST CONTINUE TO SUPPORT R&D TO MAINTAIN A NUCLEAR
INFRASTRUCTURE AND THAT EXPECTING THAT A MATURE NUCLEAR
INDUSTRY COULD DO WITHOUT WAS UNWISE.

- IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NDC SHOULD MAINTAIN AN
AWARENESS OF NEW REACTOR CONCEPTS, E.G.,
INNOVATIVE/EVOLUTIONARY AND LONGER TERM REVOLUTIONARY
CONCEPTS BEING CAREFUL OF THE DIFFERENCES IN TIME, COST,

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PAGE 02 OF 02 PARIS 14949 00 OF 03 011053Z
AND DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY LEVEL SUPPORTING SUCH.

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- ALSO, THE NDC SHOULD INTERACT WITH THE COMMITTEE ON
THE SAFETY OF NUCLEAR INSTALLATIONS (CSNI) WITH RESPECT
TO NEW REACTOR CONCEPTS.

GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

5. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION REACHED BY PARTICIPANTS WAS
THAT; NUCLEAR POWER WAS A COUNTRY SPECIFIC MATTER; THAT
SOME COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE TO USE NUCLEAR POWER; AND
THAT OTHERS, OVER TIME, WOULD PROBABLY RE-DEPLOY THIS
ENERGY SOURCE. IT WAS AGREED THAT THE NDC HAD A BROAD
MANDATE, NAMELY ECONOMICS OF NUCLEAR POWER; THAT THE

ECONOMICS WERE IMPACTED BY ACTIONS OF MOST, IF NOT ALL,
OF THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE NEA, AND THAT
INTERACTION WITH THE OTHER COMMITTEES OF THE NEA SHOULD
BE INCREASED. IN ADDITION, THE NDC SHOULD STRIVE FOR
MORE INTERACTION WITH THE OTHER OECD ACTIVITIES.

NEXT STEPS

6. THE CHAIRMAN DID NOT ATTEMPT TO WEIGH AND
SUMMARIZE THE MATTERS DISCUSSED. THE SECRETARIAT WILL
PREPARE A REPORT TO THE NDC INCLUDING SUGGESTED NEW
ACTIVITIES FOR THE NDC.

AARON

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