July 5, 1978

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

SECY-78-367

INFORMA

For:

The Commissioners

From:

James R. Shea, Director

Office of International Programs

W. J. Duch

Thru:

Executive Director for Operations

Subject:

REQUEST TO DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO CONSIDER APPROACHES FOR ACQUIRING ADDITIONAL SAFEGUARDS IMPLEMENTATION

INFORMATION

Purpose:

To inform the Commission of the staff's implementation of the Commission's request that the Department of State be asked to consider approaches to acquiring additional safeguards implementation information.

Discussion:

As a result of the Commission meeting of June 6, 1978 regarding NMSS' role in international safeguards and physical security determinations, the staff was requested (S.J. Chilk memorandum of June 14) to discuss with the Executive Branch various approaches to the acquisition of additional information on a voluntary basis concerning international safeguards and to discuss the possibility of incorporating in renegotiated agreements for cooperation a requirement that information related to IAEA safeguards inspections be provided to the US.

Following the above-mentioned meeting, James R. Shea contacted Mr. Louis Nosenzo, DOS, on June 7 regarding these matters and was informed that State would seriously study the proposed approaches. Mr. Nosenzo indicated that he would consider it appropriate for NRC to write State a letter in this regard,

Contact:

Shelton L. Williams, IP

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The Commissioners

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Attached is a copy of the letter that IP has sent as a result of Mr. Nosenzo's suggestion. IP will inform the Commission of State's response as soon as it is available.

James Rl Shea, Director
Office of International Programs

Enclosure: Ltr to Nozenzo (State) dtd 6/30/78

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

JUN 3 0 1978

Mr. Louis V. Nosenzo
Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear
Energy and Energy Technology Affairs
Department of State, Room 7830
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Nosenzo:

As you know, the Commission is conducting a review of its role in assessing the effectiveness of IAEA safeguards in the export licensing context. Particularly important in making these assessments is the amount of information available to the NRC regarding the implementation of IAEA safeguards. The Action Plan to Strengthen IAEA Safeguards contains many valuable approaches to enhancing the information flow to the U.S. Government regarding the implementation of IAEA safeguards, but the Commission, as we discussed on June 7, would appreciate the Department of State's current views regarding two specific possibilities in this regard:

- 1. Are there any acceptable approaches to acquisition of additional safeguards information that would involve voluntary submissions by countries under IAEA safeguards? For example, if the Department of State were to request States receiving U.S. nuclear exports voluntarily to provide the NRC with copies of their regulations and regulatory guides or other official documents which describe the State's materials accountancy system for nuclear materials, would this present serious diplomatic problems and what is the likelihood of receiving meaningful information?
- 2. Could a provision be included in renegotiated Agreements for Cooperation and any new Agreements for Cooperation for States to provide the U.S. Government with information on IAEA safeguards implementation in these countries, e.g. any correspondence between the State and IAEA concerning problems or deficiencies in the State's materials accountancy system?

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The Commission would appreciate receiving the Department's assessments of the advantages and disadvantages of these possible approaches at an early date.

Sincerely,

Names R. Shea, Director Office of International Programs