

THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20585

March 3, 1980


Honorable Clement J. Zablocki
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Affairs
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Thank you for your recent letter expressing concern over the safeguards conditions associated with the prospective Swiss sale of a heavy water plant to Argentina. The Administration is also very much concerned about the matter and believes that one of the most urgent steps in strengthening the international nonproliferation regime is the general acceptance of safeguards on all peaceful nuclear activities. We are continuing to work with all the governments involved in the recent Argentine purchases of nuclear equipment and technology in an effort to achieve that objective, and will keep the Congress fully and currently informed of our progress on this matter.

As you know, retransfer requests are reviewed by the Department on a case-by-case basis. In this review process, an overall judgment is made regarding the relative nonproliferation costs and benefits of proposed retransfers. In addition to the factors which we are required to consider under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Act of 1978, due weight is given to such factors as the nonproliferation credentials of the countries concerned. In this context, you may be assured that the degree of Swiss cooperation on the Argentine issue and other nonproliferation matters will be an important factor in our review of Swiss retransfer requests.

Sincerely,


John M. Deutch
Under Secretary

49142



MAR 12 1980

Washington

- EDA : Rechtsberater
- EVD : BAWI
- EVED: BEW

762.1 (4) - MR/ch 12. März 1980
513.2 (SD)-Arg.

USA, Nukleare Transportbewilligungen und schweiz.
Exporte nach Argentinien

./ In Fortsetzung unseres Schreibens vom 5. März 1980, dem wir den Brief des "Committee on Foreign Affairs" vom 19. Febr. 1980 an Energiesekretär Duncan beigelegt haben, senden wir Ihnen das Antwortschreiben, unterzeichnet am 3. März 1980 von Untersekretär John Deutch.

Insbesondere der letzte Satz dieses Briefes ist von Bedeutung.

R.E. Müller
Energierat

erwähnt

Herrn Botschafter R. Probst