

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 27, 1976

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSETEXT OF A LETTER FROM THE
PRESIDENT TO THE HONORABLE
JOHN B. ANDERSON

July 27, 1976

Dear John:

Recently, you have expressed your view that greater attention is needed to a number of important nuclear policy matters, including nuclear exports and fuel reprocessing. You have also suggested the possibility of using domestic reprocessing facilities to serve both domestic and foreign needs and to further worldwide efforts to control proliferation.

The matters you have identified are of continuing importance to this Administration and we have taken a number of steps to deal with them, all with the objective of providing safe, clean, economic and properly safeguarded nuclear power here and abroad. We are looking forward to more progress. For example, the passage of the Nuclear Fuel Assurance Act will be an important step toward the expansion of capacity in the United States to produce enriched uranium for nuclear power plants. This will help us maintain the influence associated with the U.S. role as a leading world supplier of nuclear fuel and equipment for peaceful purposes and thus contribute substantially to our non-proliferation objectives.

In addition, the departments and agencies have been examining additional options within their areas of responsibility that might contribute further to the achievement of our nuclear policy objectives. For example, we have been working with foreign nuclear suppliers and customers to strengthen controls against the diversion of nuclear materials. We are also proceeding with actions to resolve remaining questions with respect to domestic reprocessing and nuclear waste management.

Because nuclear policy issues are of such great importance, I believe they should be treated comprehensively. Accordingly, I have recently directed that a special concerted review be undertaken of our various nuclear policy objectives and options, particularly with respect to exports, reprocessing and waste management. In view of your special interest, I wanted you to know of this decision. The review will involve both domestic and international aspects. All Federal departments and agencies, as well as the policy groups in the Executive Office, that have responsibilities relating to nuclear policy will be involved in the review.

Mr. Robert W. Fri, who normally serves as Deputy Administrator of the Energy Research and Development Administration, has agreed to accept the responsibility for full-time leadership of the review effort. Mr. Fri's appointment to this temporary duty reflects my intent that special attention be given to this comprehensive review of nuclear policy issues.

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I expect that the review group will complete the principal part of its work by early fall. If the group concludes that additional actions are warranted, I will review those recommendations carefully and, where appropriate, will follow up with proposals to the Congress.

I look forward to working with you as the review progresses.

GERALD R. FORD

The Honorable John B. Anderson
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

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