

January 22, 1992

Consultation with European Authorities on Nuclear Waste Management and Disposal

November-December, 1991

A Report by J.B. Seaborn, Chairman, Environmental Assessment Panel,
Nuclear Waste Management and Disposal Concept

I was invited to speak to the Association of Canadian Studies in the Netherlands on November 29, 1991 on the subject of the Canadian environment. I took advantage of the fact that the ACSN was paying my air fare to Europe to make a number of calls on those in several European countries with responsibility for nuclear waste disposal. This initial series of contacts was consistent with the injunction in the Panel's mandate that it should "become fully aware of the programs of other leading countries in this field."

With excellent assistance from the Department of External Affairs and from its missions abroad, a series of appointments was set up for me between November 20 and December 3 in France, Switzerland, Germany, The Netherlands and Sweden. Except for a visit to the repository for low- and medium-level radioactive waste in Forsmark, Sweden, all the appointments were in national capitals.

This report constitutes my best judgment of where matters stand with respect to the management and disposal of nuclear waste in the European countries which I visited on the basis of conversations in national capitals and at the OECD/NEA. I have not been able to cross-check all notes taken during the many conversations. I would welcome corrections of fact, or comments on my impressions, from recipients of this report.

Itinerary and Meetings

Paris

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| November 20 | Over two hours with Jean-Pierre Olivier, Head of the Radiation Protection and Waste Management Division, OECD Nuclear Energy Agency, who provided a summary of progress in all the countries I was to visit, plus brief references to others in Europe. |
| November 21 | Bill Long, Director, Environmental Secretariat, OECD (because of my long association with the Environment Committee of OECD). The Secretariat has no major programs of its own on energy but is working closely with the Nuclear Energy Agency and the International Energy Agency. The latter is doing work on energy efficiency and the environment, and on the |