

United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

August 30, 1991

Mr. Michael Leir
Counsellor (Congressional and Legal Affairs)
Canadian Embassy
501 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20001

Dear Michael,

This is in reply to Jonathan Fried's letter of July 30th seeking confirmation of channels of communication between Canada and the United States in the event of nuclear accidents that might occur in connection with transits by U.S. submarines to and from Behm Canal.

I am pleased to confirm the communications channels set out in the "1812 Agreement" will be used by the United States respecting nuclear accidents involving nuclear weapons.

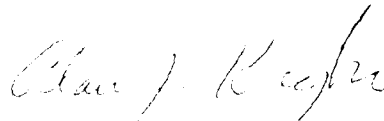
Since the United States is also a party to the IAEA Convention on Early Notification of a Nuclear Accident, I am pleased to confirm that in the case of nuclear accidents involving nuclear ship propulsion plants the notification procedures set out in that Convention will be followed by the United States. The United States has communicated to its naval authorities the identification of the Canadian point of contact as set forth in Jonathan's letter of July 30th.

For your information, the U.S. contact point is:

Operations Center
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520 tel: 202/647-1512

The U.S. Embassy in Ottawa may also be notified.

Sincerely yours,



Alan J. Kreczko
Deputy Legal Adviser