

D/91/08 7/634

16 January 1973

D.01487

PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS AND ARMS CONTROL.

Thank you for sending me a final copy of your paper on this subject. I note "it does not purport necessarily to reflect official policy, being simply a research study aimed at promoting discussion of some of the issues involved".

You ask whether the paper should be passed to the US Government. My only reservation is that it leaves me wondering who would gain by so doing. Hardly the US so far as technical/economic assessment is concerned for so much of that in the paper already draws on US experience and studies. Can they say such more in return? They would see, if they do not already know, an underlying British interest in the subject which is rather to await developments by others and then seek to "cash in" on associated services, particularly in the civil engineering field. This is a perfectly fair point to bring out in what was, I think, undertaken as a domestic mind-clearing exercise, but do we want to ask for US views on it? Perhaps you have already decided the answer is yes but, if not, you may wish to reflect on the point.

I am copying this letter to [redacted] in MOD and [redacted] at AVEE.

[redacted]
[redacted]
Arms Control & Disarmament Research Unit
Foreign & Commonwealth Office
Svi.