

June 25, 2003

The Honorable Colin L. Powell
Secretary of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shares your view of the value of U.S. citizen participation in United Nations organizations. We have a long and successful tradition of mutually beneficial relationships with international organizations, particularly with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the Nuclear Energy Agency (NEA). The cornerstone of this cooperation has been the regular assignment of NRC personnel to IAEA positions in Vienna and elsewhere. These assignments have provided opportunities for our staff to demonstrate the quality of the expertise that the U.S. regulatory program brings to nuclear safety.

The NRC, for its part, has gained valuable insights from its involvement with international safety, safeguards, and security efforts, and has forged productive partnerships with counterparts in other countries. The Commission continues to provide whole-hearted support to these assignments. The agency staff perceives them as highly desirable, fully aligned with their commitment to the mission of nuclear safety, and, not inconsequentially, personally career enhancing.

We look forward to working with you to promote the recruitment and assignment of U.S. citizens to UN organizations. Our contacts for this purpose are Paul E. Bird, Director of the Office of Human Resources, and Janice Dunn Lee, Director of the Office of International Programs, who work as a team on international assignments. Their names and contact information have been provided to Mr. George Abrahams.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Nils J. Diaz