



International Atomic Energy Agency

# INFORMATION CIRCULAR

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INF

INFCIRC/549/Add.8/4

24 August 2001

GENERAL Distr.

Original: ENGLISH

## **COMMUNICATION RECEIVED FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND CONCERNING ITS POLICIES REGARDING THE MANAGEMENT OF PLUTONIUM**

1. The Director General has received a note verbale, dated 20 July 2001, from the Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the IAEA in which the Government of the United Kingdom in keeping with its commitment under the Guidelines for the Management of Plutonium (contained in INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998 and hereinafter referred to as the "Guidelines"), and in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines, has made available annual figures for its national holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and the estimated amounts of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel as of 31 December 2000. The Government of the United Kingdom has also made available a statement of its national holdings of civil high-enriched uranium (HEU), and civil depleted, natural and low-enriched uranium (DNLEU) in the civil nuclear fuel cycle, as at 31 December 2000.

2. In the light of the request expressed by the Government of the United Kingdom in its note verbale of 1 December 1997 concerning its policies regarding the management of plutonium (INFCIRC/549 of 16 March 1998), the texts of the note verbale of 20 July 2001 and its enclosures are attached for the information of all Member States.

Note No: 031/01

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland to the United Nations and the International Organisations in Vienna presents its compliments to the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has the honour to refer to its Note Verbale No 001/97 of 1 December 1997, enclosing Guidelines specifying the policies that the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland has decided to apply to the management of plutonium.

In addition, that communication recognised the sensitivity of high enriched uranium and the need to manage stocks of such material with the same sense of responsibility as the plutonium covered by the Guidelines.

In keeping with the United Kingdom's commitment under the Guidelines on Plutonium to make available annually, information on its national holdings of civil unirradiated plutonium and of plutonium contained in spent civil reactor fuel, the Government of the United Kingdom encloses with this Note, the figures for the United Kingdom's holdings as at 31 December 2000. These are set out in accordance with Annexes B and C of the Guidelines. The Government of the United Kingdom also encloses with this Note a statement of the United Kingdom's national holdings of civil high enriched uranium, and civil depleted, natural and low enriched uranium (DNLEU) in the civil nuclear fuel cycle, as at 31 December 2000.

The Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland requests the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to circulate this Note and its attachment to all Member States for their information.

The Permanent Mission of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Director-General of the International Atomic Energy Agency the assurances of its highest consideration.



UNITED KINGDOM MISSION

VIENNA

20 July 2001

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
**ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL UNIRRADIATED PLUTONIUM**

**NATIONAL TOTALS**

as of 31 December  
2000 (Previous year's  
figures in brackets)  
Rounded to 100kg  
plutonium with  
quantities less than  
500kg reported as  
such

(Tonnes)

1. Unirradiated separated plutonium in product stores at reprocessing plants.	75.1	( 69.5 )
2. Unirradiated separated plutonium in the course of manufacture or fabrication and plutonium contained in unirradiated semi-fabricated or unfinished products at fuel or other fabricating plants or elsewhere.	0.8	( 0.8 )
3. Plutonium contained in unirradiated MOX fuel or other fabricated products at reactor sites or elsewhere.	2.2	(2.2)
4. Unirradiated separated plutonium held elsewhere.	0	( 0 )
Total	78.1	( 72.5 )

Note:

(i) Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above belonging to foreign bodies.	16.6	( 11.8 )
(ii) Plutonium in any of the forms in lines 1-4 above held in locations in other countries and therefore not included above.	0.9	( 0.9 )
(iii) Plutonium included in lines 1-4 above which is in international shipment prior to its arrival in the recipient State.	0	( 0 )

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
**ESTIMATED AMOUNTS OF PLUTONIUM CONTAINED IN SPENT  
 CIVIL REACTOR FUEL**

**National Totals**

as of December 2000  
 (Previous year's figures in  
 brackets) Rounded to 100kg  
 plutonium with quantities less  
 than 500kg reported as such

(Tonnes)

1. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at civil reactor sites.	7	( 7 )
2. Plutonium contained in spent fuel at reprocessing plants.	36	( 39 )
3. Plutonium contained in spent fuel held elsewhere.	<b>Less than 500kg</b>	(less than 500kg)

Notes:

(i) The treatment of materials sent for direct disposal will need further consideration when specific plans for direct disposal have taken concrete form.

(ii) Definition:

- Line 1: covers estimated amounts of plutonium contained in fuel discharged from civil reactors;

-Line 2: covers estimated amounts of plutonium contained in fuel received at reprocessing plants but not yet processed.

**UNITED KINGDOM**  
**ANNUAL FIGURES FOR HOLDINGS OF CIVIL HIGH ENRICHED**  
**URANIUM (HEU)**

**National Totals**

as of December 2000  
(Previous year's  
figures in brackets)

1. HEU stored at enrichment plants.	<b><u>0 kg</u></b>	<b><u>( 0 kg )</u></b>
2. HEU at fabricating plants or at other reprocessing facilities.	<b><u>574 kg</u></b>	<b><u>( 595 kg )</u></b>
3. HEU at civil reactor sites.	<b><u>0 kg</u></b>	<b><u>( 0 kg )</u></b>
4. HEU at locations other than civil reactor sites, enrichment Fabricating and reprocessing plants (eg laboratories, research Centre).	<b><u>773 kg</u></b>	<b><u>( 773 kg )</u></b>
5. Irradiated HEU at civil reactor sites.	<b><u>14 kg</u></b>	<b><u>( 14 kg )</u></b>
6. Irradiated HEU at locations other than civil reactor sites.	<b><u>277 kg</u></b>	<b><u>( 277 kg )</u></b>
Total	<b><u>1,638 kg</u></b>	<b><u>( 1,659 kg )</u></b>

The definition of high enriched uranium (HEU) is uranium enriched to 20% or more in uranium<sub>235</sub>.

**Annual figures for holdings of civil depleted, natural and low enriched uranium (DNLEU) in the  
civil nuclear fuel cycle:**

**89,900 tonnes\*** (91,500 tonnes)\*

\* To nearest 100 tonnes.