

DISCUSSION FOLLOWING SESSION 3: Papers 5 - 8

MR.D.BLACKMAN, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT:

Whilst Mr.Chapman's paper is still fresh in our minds I would like to make one or two comments. I don't think it was made totally clear in the paper that it was in fact a course for personnel from developing nuclear nations and what he said at the beginning is that you have got to make sure you know exactly what it is you are training for. One of the results of this course, as a matter of interest, is that the Portuguese delegate, whose only prior knowledge, when she came to this course, was really the transport of non-radioactive dangerous goods, is now in fact representing her country at the CEC Special Working Party on the transport of radioactive materials as well as representing Portugal at the special meeting on the Transnuclear Mol affair. I have had requests from a number of course participants for them to come and visit the UK and we have the Malaysian delegate coming to the Department of Transport for most of September. There will also be someone from Brazil and I have had informal requests from the delegates from Saudi Arabia and Nigeria. I personally found it one of the most rewarding three weeks of my life. I did not attend full time, I had other work to do, but on the occasions when I did, I found it an exceptionally rewarding experience and Mr.Chapman and his colleagues did an excellent job in getting this course together. Having talked informally to some of the people at the end, I gathered that if there were to be another one in a very short time, he would probably get the whole lot wanting to come back and do the whole thing again.

Following a further question on Paper 3:8 by Mr.D.G.Walton, University of Manchester, concerning the percentage of UK personnel involved in nuclear transport who had been through an effective structured training programme, it is regretted that, due to a technical fault, the rest of the discussion of this half-session is unavailable.