

~~Top Secret~~
[redacted]West Germany

A Western news agency report, quoting informed sources in Hannover, the capital of Lower Saxony, asserts that state Minister-President Albrecht, a Christian Democrat, will announce today his government's decision not to allow construction of the proposed nuclear re-processing plant at Gorleben. He reportedly will, however, provisionally authorize underground storage of nuclear waste at that site. [redacted]

COMMENT: The nuclear power issue had become increasingly prominent in West Germany even before the Three Mile Island incident, and Albrecht's apparent decision is something of a victory for the country's environmental activists. Albrecht, whose party is much more united in favor of nuclear energy than Chancellor Schmidt's Social Democrats, discussed the Gorleben issue with the Chancellor on 30 April; the Minister-President noted that he would not proceed with nuclear energy programs while the Social Democrats do not support them. The reported go-ahead for the nuclear storage site meets a West German legal requirement that otherwise would force the shutdown of existing reactors and deny start-ups for new ones. [redacted]

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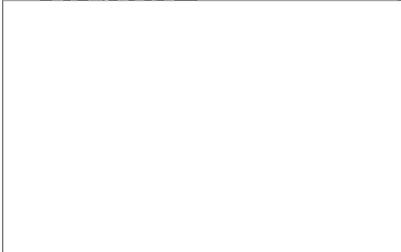
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