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The Rt Hon David Cameron
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1A 2AA

22nd September 2015

Dear David Cameron

Stop Hinkley urges you to end co-operation with Chinese state-owned nuclear companies.

We urge you end plans to invite them to invest in proposed new reactors at Hinkley Point in Somerset and halt plans to offer them a site near Bradwell in Essex to build their own reactor design.

China has a lamentable human rights record. The Foreign Office reports that the country executes the largest number of people anywhere in the world. (1) Whilst we recognise that for the purposes of international trade it is sometimes necessary to deal with unsavory regimes, but we don't have to invite them to invest in and control one of our most dangerous industries.

We want to see a UK Energy Industry which is open, transparent and responsive to the needs and wishes of our communities. In contrast the Chinese nuclear industry does not encourage debate at home to expose weaknesses in its health and safety systems. China has some of the most brutal internet and press censorship in the world. It is a country where challenging officials is risky, there is no mechanism to encourage or protect whistleblowers, and the nuclear safety watchdog is not independent. Transparency International has declared that China's companies are the least transparent of any it surveyed. (2) We are particularly concerned about the arrest and jailing of lawyers who defend regime opponents and dissidents.

Explosions at chemical plants in the eastern Chinese province of Shandong, and in the northern port city of Tianjin, which killed over 145 people, have exposed China's poor health and safety record, and the official corruption which seems to be behind many industrial accidents. After a massive earthquake in western Sichuan in 2008 in which many rural school buildings collapsed, crushing hundreds of children to death, it emerged that the schools had been built with cheap substandard materials with the savings going into the pockets of local officials. (3)

In return for financing a French designed reactor at Hinkley the Chinese will be hoping their indigenous reactor will gain a stamp of approval from the UK's Office for Nuclear Regulation so that they can go on to sell reactors across the globe. But the best way to stop China exporting its human rights policies, health and safety lapses and track record of corruption is to end nuclear co-operation now.

Please don't allow your name to go down in history as the Prime Minister who sold the UK to China.

www.stophinkley.org

PATRONS

The Lord Ashdown of Norton-sub-Hamdon, Raymond Briggs, Julie Christie,
Terry Jones, Dr. Caroline Lucas MP, Michael Meacher MP and John Williams.

Yours sincerely

On behalf of Stop Hinkley
Valerie Davey
Membership Secretary & Treasurer

- (1) Amnesty International 31st July 2015 <http://www.amnesty.org.uk/china-beijing-2022-olympic-games-human-rights>
China - Country of Concern, Foreign and Commonwealth Office 12th March 2015
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/china-country-of-concern--2/china-country-of-concern>
- (2) Hutton, W *George Osborne in China – wide-eyed, innocent and deeply ignorant*,
Observer 20th October 2013,
<http://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2013/oct/20/osborne-chinese-charm-offensive-ignorance>
- (3) Chu, B *China's flawed corruption crusade: How the Tianjin disaster was the latest consequence of a system that places profit before public safety*, Independent, 22nd August 2015 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/asia/corruption-in-china-the-tianjin-explosion-offers-a-glimpse-of-how-the-country-really-works-10466255.html>