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MANFRED OHRENSTEIN

MINORITY LEADER
27TH DISTRICT

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Ms. Judy Freiworth
Coordinator
Coalition for a Nuclear-Free Harbor
225 Lafayette Street -- Suite 207
New York, N.Y. 10012

September 19, 1985

Dear Ms. Freiworth:

I am writing to tell you my views on the Navy's proposal to homeport a nuclear-armed surface action group at Stapleton, Staten Island.

I have concerns regarding environmental, health and safety factors. Questions relative to the potential threat of sabotage and terrorism, as well as the risk of releasing highly toxic substances into the air, have not to date been adequately answered. I believe that even the U.S. General Accounting Office's report to Congressman Weiss on this matter did not adequately examine these issues (GAO/NSIAD-85-123, July 29, 1985, "Observations on Navy Nuclear Weapon Safeguards and Nuclear Weapon Accident Emergency Planning").

If there is truly nothing to fear, then the federal government should allay public concern by addressing these issues in the Environment Impact Statement process and by expeditiously releasing the findings to the public. It is imperative to avoid a replication of the 1960 incident at McGuire Air Force Base in New Jersey in which the radioactive contamination released into the air and its effects on the public was not reported for twenty-five years.

Please be assured that I will convey my views to the members of the New York Congressional Delegation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Manfred Ohrenstein".

Manfred Ohrenstein

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