

THE NUCLEAR CABINET

Committed



For Wary



Gelger rating (out of ten)

■ Tony Blair

Believes all arguments point to nuclear power as answer to security of energy supply and lower carbon emissions



■ John Prescott (Deputy Prime Minister)

Takes pragmatic view and believes energy gap must be met



■ Gordon Brown (Chancellor)

Believes potential long-term benefits outweigh costs but keen to seek consensus with green lobby



Jack Straw (Foreign Secretary)

Provided the Government's review makes a realistic case, he is likely to back it



■ Margaret Beckett (Environment Secretary)

Persuadable. Important departmental voice on environmental side



■ Alistair Darling (Transport Secretary)

Practical minister likely to support nuclear power if the case is made



■ John Reid

(Defence Secretary) Heading separate consultation on Trident missiles, so likely to be keen



■ Geoff Hoon (Leader of the Commons)

Familiar with nuclear issues as former Defence Secretary



■ Patricia Hewitt (Health Secretary)

Deferred issue as Trade Secretary in 2003 White Paper. Wants more done on renewables



■ Tessa Jowell (Culture Secretary)

Loyalist likely to follow Blair's lead



■ Hilary Armstrong (Chief Whip)

Highly pragmatic and likely to side with nuclear power provided convincing case is put



■ Charles Clarke (Home Secretary)

Very interested in environmental issues but pragmatic in terms of national energy supply



■ Peter Hain (Northern Ireland Secretary)

Not opposed outright but chief concern is long-term cost



■ Ian McCartney (Minister without Portfolio, Labour Party chairman)

Will insist there is full debate among Labour members



■ Baroness Amos (Leader of the Lords)

Will probably go with the majority view in Cabinet



■ Lord Falconer of Thoroton (Lord Chancellor)

Loyal to Blair. Likely to want to test the arguments



■ Hilary Benn (International Development Secretary)

Ultra-Blairite likely to go with the tide



■ Alan Johnson (Trade and Industry Secretary)

Officially neutral but convinced nuclear is part of solution



■ Ruth Kelly (Education and Skills Secretary)

Has enough on her plate with school reforms



■ John Hutton (Work and Pensions Secretary)

Champion of nuclear industry as MP for Barrow-in-Furness in Cumbria, where Trident submarines were built



■ Des Browne (Chief Secretary to the Treasury)

Must satisfy himself on costs



■ David Milliband (Minister of Communities and Local Government)

Background in Downing Street policy unit suggests he is likely to be strongly in favour

