

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

THAMES HOUSE SOUTH MILLBANK LONDON SWIP 4QJ 01 211 6402

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Anni Mish

T Lankester Esq Private Secretary to the Prime Minister No 10 Downing Street LONDON SWI

14 March 1980

Vear line

BNOC: STATEMENT

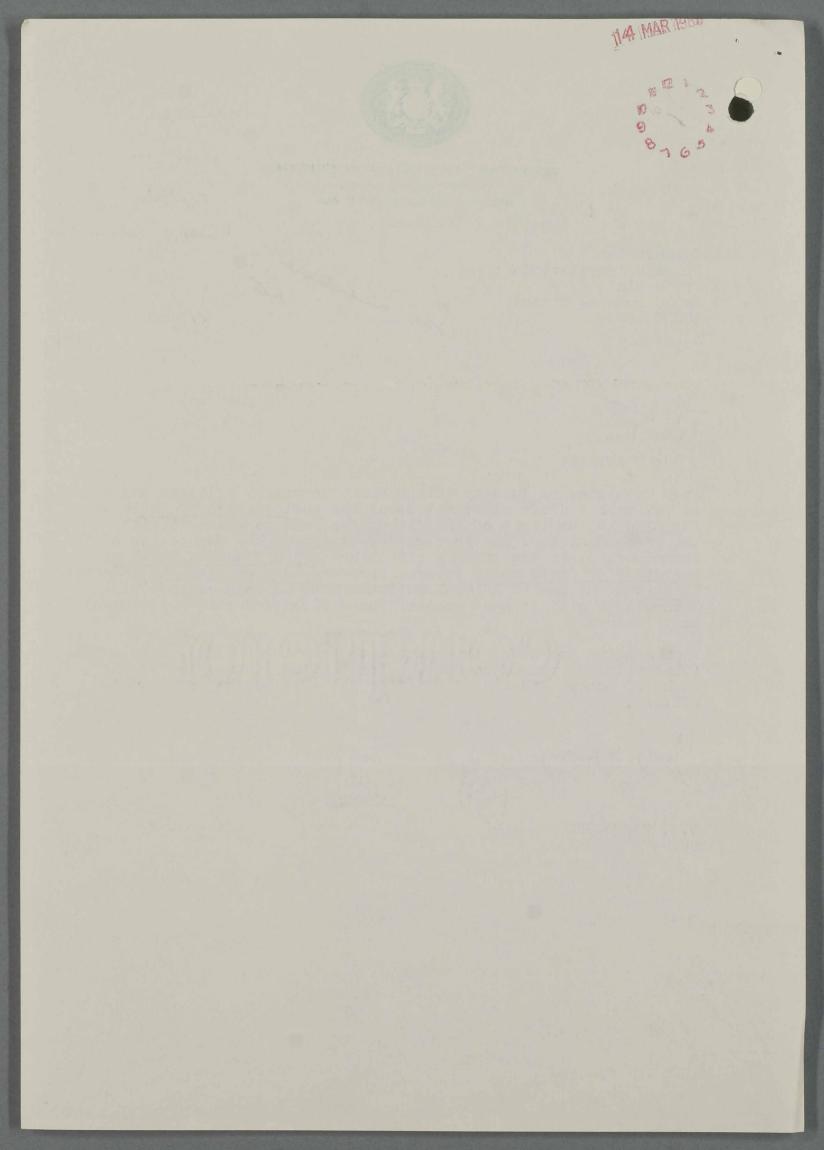
At E Committee on Tuesday this week my Secretary of State was asked to revise his draft statement about the postponement of legislation for BNOC in the light of the discussion, and to clear it with the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am accordingly attaching a draft answer which my
Secretary of State would give in response to a written Parliamentary
Question. He has it in mind to issue this as soon as possible.

I should be glad to know whether you are content with a statement in this form.

I am sending copies of this minute to Paul Lever (FCO), Martin Hall (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Peter Laidlaw (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) and to David Wright (Sir Robert Armstrong's Office).

W.J. BURROUGHS

PRIVATE SECRETARY





- Q. TO ASK THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY WHEN HE PLANS
 TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FOR PRIVATE SECTOR
 PARTICIPATION IN BNOC'S NORTH SEA OPERATION?
- A. I have already announced Government policies for BNOC following our review of its activities, and our intention to seek any powers necessary to implement these policies including private sector participation in BNOC's North Sea operations. In view of the full Parliamentary timetable the Government have regretfully decided that it is not possible to introduce legislation this Session. I aim to do so as soon as Parliamentary time permits thereafter.