

CONFIDENTIAL

Qa 04302

To: MR LANKESTER ✓
From: SIR KENNETH BERRILL

File with Tim

Pami Amin

*In case Sir David
Steel raises his
with you.*

The Future Role of BNOC

*TL
12/10*

1. I understand that at the lunch on Sunday the Chairman of BP may hope to have a short word with the Prime Minister on the future role of BNOC just to register that BP has a considerable interest in the remit under which BNOC will be working in the years ahead. He would hope that before decisions are taken BP could put their point of view privately at the highest level. (Their main concern is that BNOC's trading operations should not become too grandiose and too worldwide.)

*E Committee
on 30 Oct.
R.*

2. The Department of Energy is working hard on the future role of BNOC and the issues will be put before Ministers collectively very soon. The aim is to keep BNOC's ambitions within bounds and at the same time to keep available for HMG a vehicle which will help ensure United Kingdom security of supply and which may be needed to trade with Governments which insist on dealing on an inter-government basis. The CPRS is in touch with this work. Sir David Steel could be told that if he wants to express views he should do so quickly and, presumably, to Mr Howell (or to the Prime Minister herself).

3. I am sending a copy of this minute to Sir John Hunt.

KB

11 October 1979