SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY THATIES HOUSE SOUTH MILLBANK LONDON SWIP 491 01 211 6402 Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe MP Chancellor of the Exchequer HM Treasury // June 979 Whitehall er colling Thank you for your letter of 7 June. As I have said, I am anxious to do all I can to help you by one means or another. I must repeat that I can give you no categorical assurance on what can be done in 1979-80, and the figure of £200 must therefore remain your assumption. Since writing my letter of 6 June, we have had Michael Havers letter setting out the Law Officers' views that legislation would be required if cisposals by BGC or BNOC are to be carried through by means of a direction on a basis which is legally sound. This opinion must reinforce caution about securing the proceeds of sales within 1979/80. But you can be sure we will do our best. I am sending a copy of this letter to the Prime Minister. lan en D.A.R HOWELL Webs did to - my