

cc A. Dugard.

cc Mr Lyghan

CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

ENERGY PRICES

I am concerned that we have set no firm timescale for decisions on the issues we face on energy pricing, which are being considered in MISC 56. We are seeking to arrive at a package adequate to contain the industrial pressures for action, without going beyond what we can afford or what would be wise in energy terms. These pressures are not diminishing. I expect them to be manifest again in the House when I answer questions on June 8.

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28/5

Met Incl  
From MISC 56  
Cabinet Office will  
set up a further  
meeting MISC 56 (which  
I think you will need  
to chair) as soon  
as Mr Howell has  
circulated his further  
papers.

I plan to circulate to colleagues on MISC 56 on 1 or 2 June those further papers for which I was asked at the Committee's last meeting on 14 May. I trust that the other papers which were commissioned can be made available in the same timescale, so that we can reach decisions as soon as possible thereafter.

I am sending copies of this letter to our colleagues on MISC 56 and Sir Robert Armstrong.

JH.  
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Secretary of State for Energy

28 May 1981