

CONFIDENTIAL

c. Miss Stephens
Mr. Ingham


MR. PETERSON

CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR TIDAL FLOODING IN LONDON

You should know that at a meeting of the CCU this morning, which I attended largely because it covered various pay disputes with which I am involved, there was discussion of the contingency planning for tidal flooding in London. A paper by the Department of the Environment, which has been gestating now for over a year, is to be circulated by Mr. Heseltine to his colleagues before the recess describing the state of readiness of the plans. The salient feature of this document is of course that we face only one more complete flood season (late August to late April) and a further half season, on the assumption that the Thames Flood Barrier is completed on schedule in December 1982.

The points for this office to note, apart from the arrangements with which I know Caroline Stephens is familiar for evacuating essential personnel to Lincoln's Inn, are the general arrangements for warning, evacuation, electricity supply, and meeting the needs of those (such as the sick) who are otherwise immobile.

Bernard Ingham will want to note that the Department of the Environment will establish a multi-departmental flood press office, which will work alongside the Flood Emergency Unit in Fortress House, and will be instructed to liaise closely with him.


John Vereker

13 July 1981

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