

A

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr Butler  
Mr Flesher  
Miss Christopherson  
Mr Kydd

BP - MAGNUS FIELD INAUGURATION - SEPTEMBER 14

I walked the course today with BP for your inauguration on September 14 of BP's £1.3bn Magnus oilfield - so far in the most northerly and deepest North Sea waters.

It would be very helpful if I could clear with you overnight a number of points I recommend which are set out below.

First, background. BP are inviting an audience of 400 to Britannic House in the City for the ceremony and will link this by close circuit TV with the oilfield control room in Dyce, Aberdeen (where George Younger will be stationed) and in the oilfield itself (where Alick Buchanan-Smith will be). Among the 400 will be Ministers (Chancellor, Energy, Industry, Transport), Government Departments, industry and suppliers (84% of oilfield is British content) and Ambassadors of countries where BP already has operations or hopes to have.

The essential points I need to clear with you now are:

- after being received at the main entrance at 11.30am you will have 10 minutes before going into the ceremonial hall; BP propose that apart from looking at exhibition material you do two things:
  - (i) pop immediately outside into the courtyard to be photographed in front of a London bus inside the mock-up of one of the steel legs of the Magnus oilfield platform; and
  - (ii) be photographed watching school-children operate a mini-computer putting in place on the oilfield a model of the Magnus production platform; this will underline BP's educational projects.

I would like you to do both;

- after the ceremony (which will involve a 20 minute film of the Magnus oilfield development and short speeches by BP's chairman and yourself) you will spend 20 minutes in a separate room with

about 100 of those who have actually developed Magnus - geologists, geophysicists, divers, drillers etc; and will unveil a plaque in the same room commemorating the occasion.

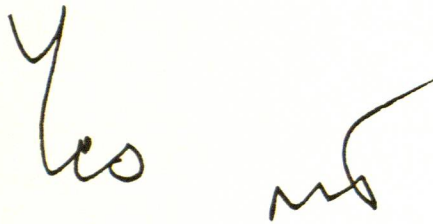
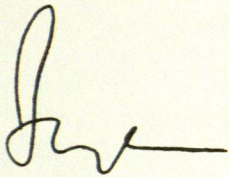
I think you should do all this;

- following this you will go at about 1.00pm into a buffet lunch (from which the photographic media will be excluded) to mingle with the other 300 guests; you will be able to leave at, say, 2.00pm

I will prepare you a draft 10-minute speech, on the basis of contributions from the D/Energy and BP, for weekend September 2-4.

I shall give you more detailed guidance nearer the date.

Content?



B. INGHAM

25 July 1983

13 September 1983

MR SCHOLAR

P 15

I think the present draft is more than good enough. I am therefore hesitant in submitting the following as page 14A:

X-X

"St Magnus gave his name to one of the most northerly cathedrals in the world, on Orkney. Now he is commemorated in perhaps the northernmost great engineering feat of the world. For the Magnus platform is a remarkable structure; as remarkable in its triumph over hostile elements of wind and weather as the Great Wall of China or the Forth Bridge in their day. This is one of the seven wonders of the modern world, further North, in unfriendlier seas, bigger than any other platform on our Continental Shelf. And it is British-built.

"For Jules Verne, even to voyage thousands of feet below the surface of the sea was a fantasy. Today, you suck oil up from incredible depths below the seabed. Your achievements in the North Sea sometimes make even Texan oilmen look small.

"Let no-one ever forget, now or in the future, the daring, the imagination and the tenacity which made Magnus possible.

→ "The Nordic sagas describe St Magnus as 'the most accomplished of men in all things' and he gave

FERDINAND MOUNT

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In inaugurating the Magnus field'