

PRIME MINISTER

MAGNUS - UNION INTERFERENCE

BP have alerted me to the likelihood that the Post Office Engineering Union will disrupt the Magnus ceremony. This is their judgement after increasing noise and threats from the POEU in Aberdeen yesterday and overnight.

BP say that since they cannot therefore guarantee to maintain the 3 centre programme they have worked overnight on alternative arrangements.

But even if the worst comes to the worst your voice will still be heard in Aberdeen, though there will be no tv pictures. The Magnus platform will only transmit out, not receive.

I have discussed with BP what if any reaction should be made if things are disrupted. They agree with my view that we should all seek to make light of it. Both the Government and BP want this to be a joyous day and we should not give the POEU the satisfaction of feeling they have spoiled it.

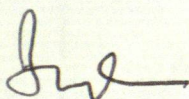
I have conveyed this advice to George Younger's office in Aberdeen.

Content?

I should alert you to the likelihood that ITN will try to get a doorstep interview with you on arrival.

My strong advice is NOT to give any interviews. They will want to pursue something irrelevant to the day - eg. Korean airliner; or something negative - eg. North Sea tax, BP sell off or POEU action.

Just keep walking.



B. INGHAM

14 September 1983