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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG  
01-233 3000

PRIME MINISTER

WITHSTANDING A STRIKE BY OIL TANKER DRIVERS

Sir Robert Armstrong, in his minute to you of 13 October identified three major issues arising from the report by officials on the implications of a strike by oil tanker drivers.

2. I agree that the objective should be to withstand a long strike. We need to ensure that industrial muscle is not seen to prevail.

3. I am prepared, therefore, to contemplate using more Service drivers than under the present plan, in order to maintain about 70 per cent of normal road-borne deliveries. I agree that the Civil Contingencies Unit should be authorised to explore how this objective might be implemented.

4. I am sending copies of this minute to the Home Secretary, the Secretaries of State for Defence, Scotland, Trade and Industry, Employment, Transport and Energy and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'N.L.' with a flourish.

N.L.

1 November 1983