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SECRET AND PERSONAL

PRIME MINISTER

WITHSTANDING AN OIL TANKER DRIVERS' STRIKE

I have seen the report by officials sent to you under cover of Sir Robert Armstrong's minute of 13 October.

2 In my view we should be prepared to withstand a long strike. This would not be possible with the existing plan providing for essential services. The lack of provision for haulage would mean that industry would grind to a halt very quickly. I therefore favour asking the Civil Contingencies Unit to devise a more ambitious plan using more Service drivers.

3 I am sending copies of this minute to the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretaries of State for Energy, Defence, Scotland, Employment and Transport and to Sir Robert Amrstrong.

NJ  
N T

4 November 1983

Department of Trade & Industry

Ind. W. : End Actions by  
Tanker Drivers  
Nov '79

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