

SECRET



CCNO 19
NBAM
AF 2017

Prime Minister

CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR AN OIL TANKER DRIVERS' STRIKE

I have seen Sir Robert Armstrong's minute to you of 3 July covering a report by officials on contingency planning for an oil tanker drivers' strike.

I note that contingency planning is now in hand to prepare a more flexible plan by the coming autumn. This plan could need emergency powers for its implementation and I agree that further work on the legal aspects should be put in hand. The legal powers required and in particular the need for an amendment to the Emergency Powers Act 1920 is likely to depend on the delivery level to be achieved, and the Civil Contingencies Unit will need to address this question as part of producing a more flexible plan.

I also agree that further work should be put in hand on the possibility of obtaining oil delivery vehicles without recourse to requisitioning. I recognise that there are difficulties in proceeding this way, but, compared with the use of emergency powers, the advantage could lie in doing so.

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

L.B

20 July 1984

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Oil tanker drivers



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