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PRIME MINISTERCONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR AN OIL TANKER DRIVERS' STRIKE

Under cover of his AO84/1884 of 3rd July 1984 Sir Robert Armstrong circulated the report of the Working Group on contingency planning for an oil tanker drivers' strike.

2. I agree that we should note the contents of the report and that further work should be commissioned on the legal aspects and the possibility of obtaining oil delivery vehicles without requisitioning.

3. In endorsing the report colleagues will wish to note that the deployment of large numbers of trained Service drivers as part of the implementation of contingency plans could have implications for the operational readiness of our Forces. The effects would depend on the extent and duration of Service involvement but the Working Group report makes it clear in particular that the involvement of over 5,000 drivers would necessitate the return of personnel from British Forces Germany. This would lead to disruption of the movements of troops and supplies and to a degradation of our ability to meet NATO standards. This is one of the factors which would need to be considered carefully at the time, before a decision to commit troops was taken.

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

WJS

Ministry of Defence  
24th July 1984





25 JUL 1994

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