

PRIME MINISTER

DOUGLAS HOGG MP: NIREX

Douglas Hogg has pressed for an urgent meeting with you to discuss the proposals to test a site in his constituency for storing radio-active waste. He raised the matter with you during Questions today, and he put a similar point to Mr. Biffen at Business Questions. We have found a slot for him in the diary at 1630 tomorrow.

As you know, Mr. Hogg believes that the Government should not introduce an SDO until a response is given to the Select Committee's report on Sellafield. Behind this proposal lies the hope that an SDO can be delayed until the autumn by when the Sizewell Report would be available. Mr. Hogg, it seems, hopes that once the ink is at last dry on the Sizewell Report the Government will have considerably more flexibility to adopt a new policy on radio-active waste disposal. (Though this means surely that the Government will need to have taken decisions on Sizewell, which would delay matters even further; and how long would it be before NIREX smelt a rat?)

Mr. Hogg has also arranged to see the Environment Secretary on Monday. In the normal course of events, he should see Mr. Baker first, before coming to you. But Michael Alison understands that his purpose in seeing you is to explain the very difficult position he finds himself in as the constituency MP for Fulbeck, and to set out how he proposes to handle it.

According to the Chief Whip, Mr. Hogg will not, at a meeting with you tomorrow, threaten the disruptive tactics which he nonetheless has up his sleeve. You should know however that the Chief thinks those threats are not idle and are likely to be effective.

We could, if you wished, say that you would in fact not be able to see Mr. Hogg until next week, and that you think in

any case there would be a lot to be said for him seeing Mr. Baker first. Do you wish to see Mr. Hogg tomorrow?

If you do it will be very difficult indeed to find a DOE Minister to be at the meeting. (Mr. Baker is accompanying The Queen, and Mr. Waldegrave and Mrs. Rumbold are in their constituencies with long-standing commitments). But there may anyway be something to be said for seeing Mr. Hogg on your own, since on points of policy you could indicate that you are aware of public concerns, and are sure that Mr. Baker will consider Mr. Hogg's points carefully following Monday's meeting. So, if you do wish to see Mr. Hogg, agree that no DOE Minister should be present?

MEA.

I will of course see
Mr. Hogg,
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MARK ADDISON

✓ 20 March 1986

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