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Prime Minister<sup>2</sup>

Mr Fisher  
to know of this  
New ✓

HOME OFFICE  
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE  
LONDON SW1H 9AT

21 November 1985

Dear Nigel,

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The Home Secretary thought that the Prime Minister would want to be aware that the annual counter-terrorist exercise to test the Government and police response to a terrorist incident within Great Britain is to take place next week, between 25 and 28 November.

On this occasion the incident will be a simulated take-over of an oil installation in the North Sea. The police response will be centred on the Humber-side Police headquarters, and the Cabinet Office Briefing Room will be open for the duration of the exercise. The Home Secretary and Ministers of other Departments involved - the Foreign Office, the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Energy - will be taking part at intervals during the proceedings, and as part of the exercise the Royal Marines, with support from all three armed services, will be involved in support of the civil power. This is the first occasion on which the offshore scenario has been exercised on this scale, with the full involvement of the Cabinet Office Office, Government Departments, the intelligence agencies, the police, the armed forces, and BP, and the complex communications which link them.

It is not intended that the exercise should attract any publicity. A press line has been prepared if unusual activity at the police headquarters is noticed locally: but we would not expect the activity offshore, or the fact that COBR is opened, to be noticed.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Secretary of State for Energy, and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours,  
S W Smith

S W BOYS SMITH

Nigel Wicks, Esq.



