

PRIME MINISTER

H COMMITTEE ON TUESDAY 17 DECEMBER

1. Disposal of radioactive waste

H agreed that there should be geological exploration at four sites - 2 inland (Elstow, Bedfordshire and Fulbeck, near Grantham) and two coastal (Bradwell, Essex and South Killingholme, South Humberside). The question of how many sites should then be taken to a public inquiry did not need to be decided now. The possibility of using one site for both intermediate and low level waste could also be considered in the light of results from the exploration.

Before the Secretary of State for the Environment announced the laying of a Special Development Order to cover the four sites, MOD would make urgent enquiries about the possibility of using a coastal site on MOD land for the disposal of MOD waste. If MOD were successful, the geological exploration need take place only on the two inland sites.

2. Trident Progress: measures of countering local authority obstruction

The Secretary of State for Scotland was given authority to work up secretly a Bill to provide him with powers to assume the statutory responsibilities of the local authorities where necessary to secure completion of the Trident programme on time. But it was clearly preferable if a non-legislative solution could be found to the problem and the search for this should continue. If alternative measures proved unsuccessful and legislative action looked to be necessary, the Secretary of State would return to the Committee before proceeding further.

Sir Robert Armstrong's minute, attached, suggests that if a Bill proves necessary, and it would be bound to be a controversial one, there was something to be said for covering



the GB as a whole rather than confirming its provisions to Scotland. Since the matter will need to go back to 'H' before the legislative option is proceeded with, these points on coverage could be considered at the same time.

If you agree, I will suggest to the Lord President's Office that Sir Robert Armstrong's point will need to be borne in mind if the matter needs to go back to 'H'.

*Yes*

*MEA*

MARK ADDISON

19 December 1985

JALAGP



CONFIDENTIAL

MR ADDISON

17 December 1985

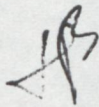
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Nuclear Waste Sites

Kenneth Baker was permitted to proceed to announce a policy in respect of four sites, ie to make the next research step of drilling at these sites; namely two inshore (Elstow and Fulback) and two coastal (South Killingholme and Bradwell). If MOD find they have sites near the coast that could be used instead of the last two, then those last two should be withdrawn. An approach should be made to the trustees for Woburn Abbey to clarify the position in respect of a possible site there.

Trident

In respect of Trident in Scotland, the Scottish Secretary was given permission secretly to work up reserve and fallback plans, as the Committee realised the problem faced there. But the Committee strongly expressed the view that the Scottish Secretary should take every conceivable step to avoid having to come back to the Committee with firm proposals.



HARTLEY BOOTH

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