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PRIME MINISTER

To see. If there
are comments from
colleagues, we will report
them to you.

01 211 6402

MS
18/4

T P Lankester Esq
Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

MS
17 April 1980

Dear Sir,

DEPLETION POLICY STATEMENT

[minutes
at A]

I am writing to clarify the position on my Secretary of State's Statement on Depletion Policy, which was discussed at E on 3 April.

As my Secretary of State explained in his letter of 27 March to the Foreign Secretary, he intends as a first step to meet with representatives of the UK Offshore Operators Association which is the representative body of companies producing oil on the UK Continental Shelf. This meeting will be set up soon after the meeting of the European Council on 26/27 April. Mr Howell has had in mind to give UKOOA some 3 to 4 weeks to respond, after which he would be in a position to make the Statement on Depletion Policy - probably in the first half of June. Although my Secretary of State expects to make the Statement on Depletion Policy somewhat later than might be inferred from the Minutes of E(80)12th meeting he will want to make his statement on the Seventh Licensing Round as soon as possible after the European Council meeting. There is, of course, no need for the two statements to be made at the same time.

[8]

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries of Members of E, Sir Robert Armstrong and Mr Ibbs.

Yours sincerely
Bill

W J BURROUGHS
Private Secretary