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Inquired  
Walter



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

30 September 1981

From The Minister of State

Douglas Hurd CBE MP

Mus.

Dear Nigel,

Thank you for your letter to Peter Carrington in which you suggested that the way is now clear to proceed with an announcement of the remaining 7th Round licensing awards.

I entirely agree that the decision reached by Ministers on the gas gathering pipeline has removed any reason for continuing to withhold from the French companies the 7th Round licences for which they were otherwise qualified. I am content with your proposal to announce the remaining awards on 1 October and am grateful for your suggestion that briefing for our overseas posts be prepared by your officials in consultation with mine.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to Members of 'E' Committee, to the Chancellor of the Duchy, to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Lawson,

Doyle.

The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP  
Secretary of State for Energy  
Department of Energy  
Thames House South  
Millbank  
LONDON SW1

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*Energy*  
*J. Vereker*  
*A. Duguid*  
*A. Walters*

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH  
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ  
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*Correspondence*  
*copy*

The Rt Hon Lord Carrington PC KCMG MC  
Secretary of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office  
Downing Street  
London SW1

September 1981

*John Peter*

With your agreement the award of 11 licences under the Seventh Round of Offshore Licensing was delayed to put pressure on the French companies (Elf and Total) to commit their North Alwyn gas to the gas gathering pipeline (GGP). Now that the GGP is not going ahead there is no need for us to continue to withhold the remaining licences.

We did, however, deliberately avoid a direct link between the award of licences and North Alwyn gas. To preserve this position, we should allow some time to elapse between our GGP announcement and announcement of the remaining licence awards. I propose therefore to announce the remaining awards on 1st October, by means of a Press Notice and direct advice to the applicants. A list of the awards is attached.

If you are content, I suggest that briefing for Posts should be prepared by my officials in consultation with yours.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, to Members of 'E' Committee, to the Chancellor of the Duchy, to the Secretaries of State for Scotland and Wales and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*John Peter*  
*Nigel*

NIGEL LAWSON

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ANNEX C  
 AWARDS TO COMPLETE THE ROUND  
 FOR

BLOCKGROUPS (OPERATOR UNDERLINED)South Western Approaches

73/4

BP Petroleum Development Ltd.  
 Total Oil Marine Ltd.  
 Elf UK Ltd  
 Aquitaine UK Ltd.

English Channel

98/11

British Gas Corporation X  
 EP Petroleum Development Ltd.

99/12 and 99/13

Esso Petroleum Company Ltd.  
 Whitehall Petroleum Ltd.  
 Premier Consolidated Oilfields Ltd.  
 Venture Oil Company Ltd.

North of Shetlands

208/21

Elf UK Ltd.  
 Cenoco (UK) Ltd.  
 Gulf Oil Corporation  
 London & Scottish Marine Oil Company Ltd.  
 Barclays North Sea Ltd.

208/22

Esso Petroleum Company Ltd.  
 RTZ Oil and Gas Ltd.

209/8

Marathon Oil UK Ltd.  
 IMS Energy Ltd. (IME)  
 LL & E (UK) Inc.  
 Norwich Union (Hydrocarbons) Ltd.

214/29

Total Oil Marine Ltd.  
 Tricentrol North Sea Ltd.  
 Hispanoil (UK) Ltd.  
 Pict Petroleum Ltd.  
 Esco Exploration Ltd.

219/29

BP Petroleum Development Ltd.  
 Elf UK Ltd  
 Agip (UK) Ltd.

219/30

Total Oil Marine Ltd.  
 Tricentrol North Sea Ltd.  
 Hispanoil (UK) Ltd.  
 Pict Petroleum Ltd.  
 Esco Exploration Ltd.

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220/26

BP Petroleum Development Ltd.  
Elf UK Ltd  
Agip (UK) Ltd.  
Enjay Holdings Ltd.

220/27

BP Petroleum Development Ltd.  
Elf UK Ltd.  
Agip (UK) Ltd.  
Enjay Holdings Ltd.

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