

PRIME MINISTER

OIL PRICES

Nigel Lawson's Office telephoned this afternoon to say that he had had a message from the Kuwaiti Oil Minister to the effect that the latter wished to come and see him on Friday morning as representative of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Iraq.

Mr. Lawson is in little doubt that the objective will be to put pressure on us with regard to North Sea oil prices. Mr. Lawson will, of course, take the line that our behaviour in recent weeks has shown that we are concerned for the stability of the oil market but that in the end it is for BNOC to take their decisions in the light of the market.

Mr. Lawson has informed the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary of this démarche but otherwise does not wish to broadcast it. He will, therefore, not be bringing it up in Cabinet tomorrow.

A.J.C.

23 February 1983