



CABINET OFFICE

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 8319

From the Secretary of the Cabinet: Sir Robert Armstrong KCB, CVO

Ref. A09758

14th October 1982

Withstanding a Strike in the Electricity Supply Industry

As you know, ^{P12} the Prime Minister agreed earlier this year (Mr Scholar's minute to me of 5th May 1982) that there should be a study of how to withstand a strike in the electricity supply industry. The Official Group on Electricity Supplies (MISC 86) has now been established for this purpose, under Peter Gregson's chairmanship. I am writing to invite nominations to it from you and copy addressees, preferably at Deputy or Under Secretary level.

The Group clearly ought to aim to complete its work before the opening of the pay negotiations in the electricity supply industry, and I expect that Peter Gregson will therefore wish to convene an early first meeting. I should therefore be grateful to have the names of departmental nominees as soon as possible.

I am sending copies of this letter to Ken Barnes, Peter Carey, Peter Baldwin, Frank Cooper, Donald Maitland, Kerr Fraser, Michael Franklin, Robin Butler and John Sparrow.

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Sir Douglas Wass, GCB

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SIR DONALD MAITLAND GCMG OBE
PERMANENT UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK
LONDON SW1P 4QJ

01-211 4391

22 October 1982

SECRET AND PERSONAL

Sir Robert,

WITHSTANDING A STRIKE IN THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY

You sent me a copy of your letter of *14* October to Douglas Wass about the above study.

Clearly, the Department of Energy will have an important part to play in this study. I am however somewhat concerned about the implications for our resources, especially as many of those involved could in the next few months be dealing with the consequences of an adverse vote at the end of the NUM ballot.

We will nonetheless do our best to participate fully in the study. I should like to nominate Ivor Manley as our Departmental representative. He will be assisted by David Metz, the Assistant Secretary in the Electricity Division concerned with such issues; it would be helpful if he too could be regarded as a full member of the Group.

I am sending copies of this letter to Douglas Wass and the other recipients of your letter.

Yours ever,

Donald

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AS

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SECRET AND PERSONAL

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE

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Telephone 01-218 (Direct Dialling)

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PERMANENT UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE

SIR FRANK COOPER GCB CMG

FUS/82/1271

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
Whitehall
SW1

21 October 1982

Sir Robert

You kindly sent me a copy of your letter to Douglas Wass of 14 October in which you asked for nominations to the newly formed MISC 86.

2. In our case there is a good deal of practical value in having the same person representing MOD on all the inter-departmental groups which are or will shortly be conducting parallel studies of how to withstand strike action in industries where essential supplies and services would be at risk. I should therefore like Barry Miller, Head of DS6, to be our representative on MISC 86.

3. I am sending copies of this letter to the other recipients of yours.

*Yours
Frank Cooper*

FRANK COOPER

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DEPARTMENT OF TRADE
1 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1H 0ET

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01 215 3785
SWITCHBOARD 01 215 7877

From the Permanent Secretary
M. D. M. Franklin, CB CMG

NO 10 OF 11

R Hatfield Esq
PS/Sir R Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
Whitehall
London SW1

21 October 1982

Dear Richard,

MISC '86

Michael Franklin's nomination to MISC 86 is Alec Berry, Assistant Secretary on the domestic side of our Western European and General Division (215 3020).

Copies of this letter go to Private Secretaries to the recipients of Sir Robert Armstrong's letter of 14 October.

Yours sincerely,

PP ROBERT P MADELIN
Private Secretary

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21 OCT 1982

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT
2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 4581

THE PERMANENT SECRETARY
SIR PETER BALDWIN, KCB

Richard Hatfield Esq
Private Secretary to
Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON
SW1A 2AS

19 October 1982

Dear Richard,

WITHSTANDING A STRIKE IN THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY INDUSTRY

Sir Peter Baldwin was grateful for his copy of Sir Robert Armstrong's letter of 14 October to Sir Douglas Wass about the establishment of a new Official Group on Electricity Supplies. He would like to nominate Mr John Palmer, who is shortly to take up his appointment as Deputy Secretary Transport Industries, as our representative on the Group.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to recipients of Sir Robert Armstrong's letter.

Yours,

Nicholas Kroll

N J KROLL
Private Secretary

SECRET & PERSONAL



Sir Peter Carey GCB
Permanent Secretary

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
ASHDOWN HOUSE
123 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1E 6RB

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-212 7003
SWITCHBOARD 01-212 7676

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19 October 1982

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1

Dear Robert,

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 14 October to Douglas Wass about withstanding a strike in the electricity supply industry.

Jack Leeming will represent this Department on the study as he has on the other similar studies that are in hand.

I am sending copies of this letter to those who received yours.

Yours ever

Peter

Peter Carey

SECRET AND PERSONAL



4 file

West End

CABINET OFFICE
Central Policy Review Staff

70 Whitehall, London SW1A 2AS Telephone 01-233 7765

From: John Sparrow

Qa 06096

15 October 1982

Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
S W 1

Dear Robert,

Withstanding a Strike in the Electricity
Supply Industry

I would like to nominate Graham Hart as the
CPRS representative on MISC 86.

I am sending copies of this to recipients of
your letter to Douglas Wass of 14 October.

Yours sincerely,

John Sparrow

SECRET AND PERSONAL

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Sir Kenneth Barnes
Permanent Secretary

Department of Employment
Caxton House Tothill Street
London SW1H 9NF
Telephone Direct Line 01-213 3000

file 3

15 October 1982

Dear Richard

WITHSTANDING A STRIKE IN THE ELECTRICITY SUPPLY
INDUSTRY

Sir Kenneth Barnes' nomination to MISC 86 is
Matt Wake, Under Secretary in charge of our
Industrial Relations Division II. His telephone
number is 213-4409.

Copies of this letter go to private secretaries
to the recipients of Sir Robert Armstrong's letter
of 14 October.

Yours ever

Peter McCarthy-Ward

PETER MCCARTHY WARD

R Hatfield Esq
PS Sir Robert Armstrong KCB CVO
Cabinet Office
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1

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SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

Withstanding a Strike in the
ELECTricity Supply Industry

Thank you for copying me your letter of 14 October (A09758) to Douglas Wass on this subject.

May I nominate John Vereker as the representative from No. 10 on Peter Gregson's group.

FERB

15 October 1982

SECRET AND PERSONAL