

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

ICL. I had a conversation with the Prime Minister about ICL and told her that efforts were being made by Mr Tebbit first to keep the company together so that the BT problem could be pursued ~~over~~ over a longer time-scale. The Prime Minister was concerned about the situation but agreed that this was the most that could be done in the short term.

I have subsequently heard from Turnbull that Mr. Tebbit made progress yesterday and the directors now seem to be lining up behind Edwardes. Those concerned seem to have been persuaded not to apply a deadline to the BT issue, but it still remains to be solved.

Turnbull will probably send a longer report tomorrow.

ROBIN BUTLER

26 NOVEMBER 1983

Dictated to Ian Mackenzie (BHC) 9.05 hrs 26/11  
for onward transmission to RTA.

MBL  
26/11