



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY
THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ
01 211 6402

Michael Scholar Esq
Private Secretary to
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

Dear Michael,

PUBLICATION OF NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES' OBJECTIVES

The Prime Minister and other colleagues accepted the proposals in my Secretary of State's minute of 27 July last in which he suggested the "three-tier" approach to publishing the objectives set for the NCB, but the timing of publication of these and other objectives was left in his hands.

Mr Lawson has now come to the conclusion that the time has come to publish the objectives which he has set for the BNOC, CEGB and NCB. The key factor here, is the position on the NCB. After the March ballot, there is now relative calm on the industrial relations front. Mr Lawson therefore proposes to publish the objectives as soon as possible, in order to disassociate them from the announcement of Mr MacGregor's appointment.

Publication of the objectives for the BNOC and CEGB at the same time will underline that the setting of objectives is a standard procedure. Publication of the CEGB's objectives will also be helpful in the Sizewell context, where the Department's witnesses have been under pressure to disclose them.

Mr Lawson therefore proposes to publish all these objectives tomorrow in a single arranged written Answer.

I am copying this letter to the private secretaries to members of E(NI), Richard Hatfield and Gerry Spence.

Yours ever,

JULIAN WEST
Private Secretary

OK No
Prime Minister
①

Agree, subject
to colleagues' views?

Yes

mt

(The Chancellor is
likely to object to
17 March 1983 publication of
BNOC objectives, because
of worries about the effect
on Yamani, oil market etc).

MUS 17/3

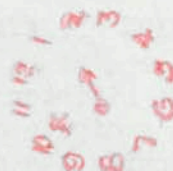
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Nat Ind: Policy Pro



NATIONAL INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
NIDA
Lagos

17 MAR 1983



CONFIDENTIAL



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18 March 1983

Dear Julian,

PUBLICATION OF NATIONALISED
INDUSTRIES' OBJECTIVES

Thank you for your letter of 17 March.

As I told you on the telephone, the Prime Minister agrees, subject to the views of her colleagues, to your publishing these objectives today.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(NI) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office) and Gerry Spence (CPRS).

Yours sincerely,

Michael Scholar

Julian West, Esq.,
Department of Energy.

SECRET



cc NO
NAT IND.

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

18 March 1983

Julian West Esq
Private Secretary to the
Secretary of State for Energy
Thames House South
Millbank
LONDON SW1P 4QJ

Dear Julian,

PUBLICATION OF NATIONALISED INDUSTRIES' OBJECTIVES

The Chancellor has seen a copy of your letter of 17 March to Michael Scholar. *with mcs*

The Chancellor is generally content for the objectives for the CEB and, subject to one point below, the NCB to be published today. He is, however, concerned about the proposed timing of objectives for BNOC. Given the current upheaval in the oil market and the fragility of the recent OPEC agreement he thinks that it would be a mistake to publish objectives for BNOC just now. While the objectives are individually unexceptionable, the Chancellor considers that the publication of a document of Government "objectives" explicitly providing for consultation with Government on a number of matters might surprise OPEC members, given the line recently, and rightly, taken with them. He thinks that it might be better to postpone publication of the BNOC objectives until the oil markets are somewhat calmer.

On the NCB, the Chancellor notes that there are some differences of wording in the objectives proposed for Mr MacGregor (circulated yesterday) and those to be published for Mr Siddall. This might possibly prompt some questions when objectives for Mr MacGregor come to be published. However, the Chancellor would not want to hold up publication of NCB objectives on that account.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret O'Mara

MISS M O'MARA
Private Secretary

nat Ind,
Pulway, A78

18 MAR 1983

