

PRIME MINISTER

POEU INDUSTRIAL ACTION

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Kenneth Baker rang this evening to say that he had seen Michael Edwardes alone this afternoon and had put it to him that a crisis in an Election period would be awkward and unpredictable, and that the Government very much wished to avoid it. Michael Edwardes was understanding, but also worried about his company's performance. They have a Board Meeting on 16 May. Michael Edwardes will be at the NSPCC reception tomorrow. He enquired what your view was. Kenneth Baker told him that you had not been involved, but that he would brief you.

Mr. Baker thinks that it would have a considerable impact on Michael Edwardes if tomorrow evening you simply said to him that you thought it important to avoid a crisis in an Election campaign (if there is to be an Election).

MCS

4 May 1983