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PRIME MINISTERWITHSTANDING A STRIKE IN THE GAS INDUSTRY

Sir Robert Armstrong sent me a copy of his minute to you of 21st December about a report of the Official Group on the gas industry. I am content with his suggestion that we should, for the time being, simply take note of the conclusions and main recommendations of the report. Sir Robert, however, draws particular attention to two detailed recommendations, one of which is very much of concern to me: that the investigation of the possibility of Service assistance for the maintenance of the compressor stations. I agree that it would be useful to have this work done and I have therefore given the necessary instructions to have it set in hand.

2. I am sending copies of this minute to the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretaries of State for Energy, Scotland, Trade and Industry and Employment and to the Secretary to the Cabinet.

WJH

Ministry of Defence
12th January 1984

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Sir Robert Armstrong GCB CVO
Secretary to the Cabinet
70 Whitehall
LONDON SW1A 2AS

25 January 1984

Dear Sir Robert

WITHSTANDING A STRIKE IN THE GAS INDUSTRY

My Secretary of State has ^{see Pt 8} asked me to let you know that he has seen your minute of 21 December addressed to the Prime Minister and the attached report of MISC 98. He has asked me to say that he agreed with the Group's recommendations referred to in your minute, and in particular with the need to consider all these issues carefully in the context of the proposals on privatisation, which he will shortly be bringing forward. He has also asked the department to take forward the work recommended in paragraph 5.12(iv) of the Group's report.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries of the Ministers who received your minute.

Yours sincerely

Michael Ki

M F REIDY
Private Secretary

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