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

01 211 6402

Andrew Turnbull Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

27 September 1984

*Dear Andrew*

SLEIPNER

Thank you for your letter of 17 September. My Secretary of State shares the Prime Minister's hope that Sleipner and gas exports can be considered by ministers again in the near future.

The commercial negotiations on Sleipner are still in train. The Norwegians have made a number of major concessions but the possible package has not yet fully crystallised and the next move lies with them. We hope for further movement shortly.

As to the possible form of a gas export regime, my Secretary of State has been in touch with the Law Officers since the beginning of August. He hopes to receive their Opinion shortly, though the exact timescale is dependent upon the progress of their consultations with other interested departments. Mr Walker nevertheless expects to be in a position to put proposals to colleagues simultaneously with his recommendation on the Sleipner deal.

Mr Walker agrees that these issues must be considered in the context of UKCS gas reserves and availability.

I am sending copies of this letter to the private secretaries of members of ES, to John Graham (Scottish Office), Michael Saunders (Attorney General's Office) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely  
M F Reidy*

M F REIDY  
Private Secretary

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