



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

01 211 6402

Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland  
Northern Ireland Office  
Whitehall  
LONDON  
SW1A 2AZ

*NBLm*

*BSCO*

*4/7*

*4* July 1988

*Dear Sir,*

**HARLAND AND WOLFF**

*at Harland* *Flagged*  
I have seen your letter of 29 June to John Major, and his and Kenneth Clarke's replies of 30 June.

I fully agree that we should take this opportunity to privatise Harland and Wolff. The only point I would make is that the yard is currently building, for BP, a Single Well Offshore Production Ship (SWOPS). Completion is overdue. The yard estimate that the vessel will be ready by the end of this year but BP themselves are not expecting to be able to receive the ship until mid 1989. I would not expect privatisation of the yard to affect BP's contract or its completion date but BP could certainly protest if the P 3000 project were to push the SWOPS completion date further back. I would hope that would not happen.

This apart I have no objections to the proposals.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, other E(A) colleagues and to Sir Robin Butler.

*John Eves,*  
*Lead*

CECIL PARKINSON

NAT IND: Shipbuilding

9714

