

CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister

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PRIME MINISTER

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CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR INDUSTRIAL ACTION  
BY OIL TANKER DRIVERS

31/1/80

In my minute of 13th December I said that the improved industrial relations situation affecting oil tanker drivers had enabled me, in consultation with the Secretary of State for Energy, to cancel pre-Christmas training of Service instructors in fuel handling duties. However, against the risk of an unexpected deterioration in that situation over the holiday period, we agreed to place them at 24 hours' notice for training on return from leave on 2nd January.

Pay negotiations by each of the major oil companies with their tanker driver employees continue until about the middle of this month but the oil industry management are confident that industrial action to enforce pay claims is remote. It has therefore been arranged that the Service instructors should revert to their normal seven days' notice.

I am sending copies of this minute to our colleagues in E and also to the Lord Chancellor, the Secretaries of State for Defence, Scotland, Wales, Northern Ireland, Social Services and Education and Science, and to the Paymaster General, the Attorney General, the Minister of Transport and Sir Robert Armstrong.

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January 1980

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7 JAN 1980

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