

CONFIDENTIAL

Copy to Mr Ingham

Mr Verker



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LONDON SW1A 2AS

Ind. Ppt.

OT-~~XXXXXX~~ 233 8378

10th November 1981

Ref: B06330

MCS has seen.

Dear John,

Oil Tanker Drivers

The Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Energy briefly discussed the situation while waiting for another meeting at No. 10 at 9.30 this morning. They agreed, in the light of the confused situation resulting from the outcome of the BP drivers' ballot, that the Army should be given the required warning order forthwith (paragraph 2b of my minute B06327 of 4th November to No. 10); that I should so inform the office of the Parliamentary Under Secretary for the Armed Forces (which I did at 9.45); and that the Home Secretary would orally inform the Prime Minister of the position in the course of the morning (which he has now done).

2. The Secretary of State for Energy said that he would be seeing the Chairman of BP tomorrow but was not sure how robust a line BP would take in briefing the press. He therefore asked me to have a word (which I have done) with the Chief Press Secretary at No. 10 about the need for him and your press people to provide adequate background guidance to the media.

John

Robert

R L WADE-GERY

J F Halliday Esq.
Home Office

cc Mr Scholar, No. 10
Mr West, D/Energy
Mr Dawson, MOD
Mr Freeman, MOD
Mr D J Wright