



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

PRIME MINISTER

## CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR AN OIL TANKER DRIVERS STRIKE

Sir Robert Armstrong copied to me his minute of 20 September to you, to which was attached the report of a Working Group of the Civil Contingencies Unit.

The report concludes that we could not rely on the major oil companies voluntarily to make available their delivery vehicles to allow maintenance of a substantial proportion of normal supplies.

I find the attitude of the management of the major oil companies very difficult to accept. The weakness of approach betrayed by them on this point is illustrative of an industrial relations attitude which encourages the oil tanker drivers to believe that a strike would be worthwhile. I believe that a producer should put his customers interests higher than the oil companies seem prepared to do in this case; and I further think that we should seek an opportunity to get this message across to their senior management. Until we do so, it may be premature to endorse the conclusions of the report.

I am copying this minute to Leon Brittan, Nigel Lawson, Douglas Hurd, Peter Walker, Michael Heseltine, George Younger, Nicholas Ridley, David Young, and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

NORMAN TEBBIT

24 September 1985

*cf NBPM at this stage -  
Please gather the comments  
& b/f when we have them  
all. DLS  
25/9.*

*A*

Industrial Action in our industry;

IND. POL NOV 79.

