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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR AN OIL
TANKER DRIVERS' STRIKE

The Prime Minister has seen your minute to her of 20 September and the report by a Working Group of the Civil Contingencies Unit. The Prime Minister has also seen the subsequent comments from Cabinet colleagues.

The Prime Minister accepts, though with regret, the conclusions set out in paragraph 11 of the report by the Working Group.

I am copying this minute to the Private Secretaries to the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and the Secretaries of State for Trade and Industry, Energy, Defence, Scotland, Transport and Employment.

(David Norgrove)
28 October 1985

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PRIME MINISTER

CONTINGENCY PLANNING FOR AN
OIL TANKER DRIVERS' STRIKE

Mr. Tebbit (flag A) is the only Minister who is fundamentally doubtful about Sir Robert Armstrong's recommendations. Mr. Heseltine has a slight hesitation (flag B). Otherwise all Ministers agree.

It seems unlikely that the oil companies could be persuaded to be more helpful without major arm twisting, which itself could cause unrest among tanker drivers.

Agree, though with regret, to accept Sir Robert Armstrong's conclusions?

Yes not

Mark Sawyer

pp. (DAVID NORGROVE)
17 October 1985