



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

THAMES HOUSE SOUTH
MILLBANK LONDON SW1P 4QJ

01 211 6402

Ami Amish

Shall we omit

"rightfully" ?

Stewart, seems ok.

T Lankester Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
No 10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

*See amendment
not.*

14 March 1980

T2

14/3

Dear Tim,

BNOC: STATEMENT

At E Committee on Tuesday this week my Secretary of State was asked to revise his draft statement about the postponement of legislation for BNOC in the light of the discussion, and to clear it with the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor of the Exchequer. I am accordingly attaching a draft answer which my Secretary of State would give in response to a written Parliamentary Question. He has it in mind to issue this as soon as possible. I should be glad to know whether you are content with a statement in this form.

I am sending copies of this minute to Paul Lever (FCO), Martin Hall (Chancellor of the Exchequer), Peter Laidlaw (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) and to David Wright (Sir Robert Armstrong's Office).

Yours sincerely,

Bill

W.J. BURROUGHS
PRIVATE SECRETARY

114 MAR 1955



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Q. TO ASK THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY WHEN HE PLANS TO INTRODUCE LEGISLATION TO ALLOW FOR PRIVATE SECTOR PARTICIPATION IN BNOG'S NORTH SEA OPERATION ?

A. I have already announced Government policies for BNOG following our review of its activities, and our intention to seek any powers necessary to implement these policies including private sector participation in BNOG's North Sea operations. In view of the full Parliamentary timetable ~~the Government have [regretfully] decided that~~ it is not possible to introduce legislation this Session. I aim to do so as soon as Parliamentary time permits thereafter.