



P.P.S.
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 Mr Litter
 Mr Bailey
 Mr F. Jones
 Mr Bridgeman
 Mr Munn
 Mr Widdowson
 Mr Lawell
 Mr Wick
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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

30 July 1979

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph MP
 Secretary of State for Industry
 Department of Industry
 Ashdown House
 123 Victoria Street
 LONDON
 SW1

Dear Secretary of State, *on Energy: July 79 Future of BNOC*

At E Committee on 24 July, I was asked to carry out a further enquiry to see what additional candidates for disposal during the current year could be found, in order to minimise any possible need to sell BP shares.

I realise that it is bound to be very difficult to identify further candidates, and have them ready for disposal within a very few months. On the other hand, there are a number of nationalised industries where, so far as I am aware, no suggestions have yet been made for the disposal of even small amounts of surplus land and property, and I should like to be sure that we have examined all the peripheral activities of nationalised industries (subsidiaries engaged in activities outside the main line business, other associated companies etc.)

Finally, is there any more we can do to realise property held in the central government sector?

It goes without saying that further candidates for disposal will be much more promising if they can be realised without fresh legislation.

I was asked by E Committee to report back in September. I should be grateful if you and our other colleagues concerned could let me know by the end of August what further prospects you and they have been able to identify.

I am copying this letter to members of E and E(DL), the Attorney General, the Lord Advocate and Sir John Hunt.

Yours sincerely,
 P. Diggle

(approved by the FST & signed in his absence)

PP NIGEL LAWSON

17 AUG 1979

