



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

21st October, 1975

Since our brief word yesterday, I have studied what you said on 29th July about our future policy towards participation in the oil industry. I gather, incidentally, that one or two people may think that even your cautiously stated position is likely to cause uncertainty and delay.

In light of what Margaret said during the Recess, and of our discussion yesterday, I believe there is a need for us to reconsider the position, if we can create an opportunity for doing that, in order to ensure that we are all singing the same tune and that our tune is, somehow or other, consistent with both national and political needs.

I have had a word with Keith about this and he is prepared to agree that we should try to find an opportunity of considering the subject. It might be possible, in the first instance, for us to have another look at it in the context of the work of our Economic Reconstruction Policy Group.

With this possibility in mind, I wonder if you can find the time to prepare a short background paper, which would include the texts of the several statements that have been made about this. We can then work out where we go from there.

I have not yet mentioned this to Margaret, but shall try to find a quiet opportunity of doing so. Meantime, this letter comes on a personal and confidential basis, copied only to Keith Joseph and Adam Ridley.