

FROM: Eldon Griffiths, M.P.

ccTG
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HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Dear Margaret

30th October, 1980.

The North Sea stands out like a light in our surrounding gloom - but one aspect of its development is a cause for deep concern. The high hopes for early completion of the big new gas line seem likely to founder on the Gas Council's monopoly. This is being used in a manner that suits the immediate commercial interests of British Gas, but could endanger the early supply of gas (and chemical feed-stock) to British industry. We should be open to political attack from both the Opposition and industry if this project is not completed before the end of this Parliament.

I have set out the reasons for my anxiety on the attached paper which, of course, I have taken up with David David Howell and Hamish Gray. However, in view of the vital importance of this project to the country and our Party's fortunes at the next election, I am sure you will wish to see it personally.

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.