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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

3 June, 1981

Thank you for your letter of 8 May.

The Prime Minister has seen your letter and has suggested that it would be valuable if you were to obtain further information about the work the Bank is doing for the Qataris. I take your point that the Qataris may already have decided how they intend to proceed. Certainly they will keep the decisions in their hands. But we received the impression in Qatar that they hoped the Bank would help them to sort out the mass of conflicting advice which they have received from interested parties. The Bank's role may therefore be crucial, and it would be extremely useful if you could obtain any information of the course their evaluation is taking and what their recommendations to the Qataris are likely to be.

If, for example, we can find out which of the various reports under study the Bank are likely to favour it could give British companies just the edge they need over their competitors and put them in a position to tailor their bids to match the Qataris requirements. The Bank may, quite properly, be cagey about this, but perhaps your relations are such that you could find something out.

I am copying this letter to Francis Richards (FCO), Julian West (Department of Energy), C B Benjamin (Department of Trade) and also to the Embassy at Doha.

J. P. LANKESTER

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