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Tonga. VR  
cc Master.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 December 1979

Dear Robin,

Visit of the King of Tonga

The King of Tonga called on the Prime Minister, as arranged, on 4 December for tea. He was unaccompanied. The conversation touched on a number of different subjects including Cambodia, relations with China and Taiwan, Vietnamese refugees and the Tongan economy. I do not think that any of the points made on these subjects need be recorded.

It may, however, be of interest that the King expressed optimism about the prospects of finding oil in Tonga's off-shore waters. He said that oil, of all grades, seeps into the Tongan water table. SOHIO have been exploring the possibilities of commercial exploitation: the main survey data are currently being analysed at the company's headquarters in the United States. The results are expected early in the New Year.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Bill Burroughs (Department of Energy).

Yours ever

Richard Alexander

R.M.J. Lyne, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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