



FCS/85/53

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY

BNOC

1. I have no objection to the proposal in your minute to the Prime Minister of 8 March, to make an announcement on the future of BNOC on Wednesday 13 March, provided that we can make the necessary arrangements within this timescale to inform other interested governments, in particular those of OPEC countries, about our decision.
2. Despite the assurances we have received from some OPEC member countries, I am not confident that we shall be given an easy ride on our decision by the oil producers. I hope you will send personal messages to Yamani, David-West and perhaps also to the Venezuelan and Mexican Oil Ministers. We shall be pleased to transmit these. My officials will be in touch with yours about the texts of these messages and instructions to other posts.
3. I am copying this minute to the Prime Minister, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Lord Privy Seal and the Secretary of the Cabinet.

(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office
11 March 1985

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