

CONFIDENTIAL

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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

15 October 1984

Dear Ruth,

British Shipbuilders: Disposal of Brooke Marine

B171
The Prime Minister has seen your letter to me of 20 September and comments from the Foreign Secretary, Secretary of State for Defence and Chief Secretary. She agrees that the Omani Government should be allowed to acquire a minority stake in Brooke Marine. She has expressed concern however that if there is industrial trouble there the Omani Government might misunderstand it and the Government's good faith might somehow be queried. She has asked whether there are any precedents which are relevant.

I am copying this letter to Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office), Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office), Richard Mottram (Ministry of Defence) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely
Andrew Turnbull

Andrew Turnbull

Miss Ruth Thompson
Department of Trade and Industry.

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From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister ①

BS are ready to sell Brooke Mansel
Lowestoft and seek advice on how to
respond to Omani interest. DTI
suggest that sale of minority stake to
be Omani Government would be acceptable
but not an outright sale of majority control.
Other Departments endorse this

Agree?

AT

10/10

I agree - but I feel
unhappy about it - if

we get industrial
trouble there - our

Omani friends might not
understand it - and our good
faith might somehow be ruined

Are there any precedents?