

CONFIDENTIAL

Security



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

MR. VILE

Exercise 'Smoked Salmon'

Thank you for your minute A0836 of
3 December 1979.

The Prime Minister was glad to have this
information about Exercise 'Smoked Salmon'. She
does not propose to take part in the exercise.

C. A. WHITMORE

4 December 1979

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MR. WHITMORE

Exercise 'Smoked Salmon'

You will be familiar with the 'Smoked Salmon' series of command and control exercises designed to test counter-terrorist contingency arrangements for use in any incident involving off-shore oil or gas installations. The latest in this series is being held this week from about 2.00 pm 3rd December to 2.00 pm 5th December. The Home Secretary, Lord Belstead and Sir Brian Cubbon will each take the chair in COBR at different times and other Ministers plan to call in to observe the exercise in progress. Most activity in COBR will be concentrated within normal working hours.

2. The Prime Minister attended Exercise Martock in July and showed great interest in it. The present exercise does not involve any movement of troops and is more modest in scope. I doubt if the Prime Minister would want to attend again but you will wish to be aware of the exercise in case it is mentioned to the Prime Minister by the Home Secretary or in case some mention of the exercise should somehow get into the Press.

Prime Minister ^{2.}

For information only. You do not really have time to attend this exercise, even if you wished to do so.

JMH
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M.J.V.
(M. J. Vile)

3rd December 1979