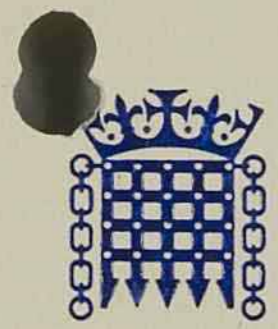


NICHOLAS R. WINTERTON, M.P.  
(Macclesfield)

CCJ

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23rd May 1980 NRW/cmh

Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher MP  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON SW1

*Dear Margaret,*

I am very disappointed to learn from the letter which you have sent to Cyril Smith MP dated 21st May, that you would appear unwilling to meet a deputation from the textile industry at this time and you have suggested that the industry should make approaches to John Nott and Keith Joseph initially.

I am sure that you must be aware that the industry, both direct and through Members of Parliament concerned, has made strong representations both to the Secretary of State for Trade and the Secretary of State for Industry, to date without any significant and constructive response. Like Cyril Smith, I am very disappointed at the answer you have given in your letter. The textile industry at this time is facing serious problems. Mills are closing each week, hundreds of redundancies are occurring each week, and if the present trend continues for very much longer the industry, which is one of the largest in our country, will become no more than a rump and its future viability will be in doubt.

I therefore appeal to you, as Mr Cyril Smith has done, to reconsider your reply as the industry, both employers and workers, would get a tremendous boost if they knew you were receiving a deputation and giving personal consideration to the plight of an industry which has a history of high investment, rationalisation and good industrial relations as well as a fine record of productivity and export achievement. Purist views of our economy and market trading must not be allowed to undermine the industrial base of this country and particularly of an industry which has served our country well.

*Nicholas R. Winterton*