

# Shotton Steelworkers' Action Committee

*Nationalised  
Industry  
Original in  
Garden Rooms*

Please reply to:

M.G. HUGHES,

Development Engineers,  
Drawing Office,  
British Steel Corporation,  
Shotton Works,  
Deeside, Clwyd.

23rd October, 1979.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P., P.C.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON.

Dear Prime Minister,

You will no doubt recall that I wrote to you on 21<sup>st</sup> August last concerning the British Steel Corporation's proposals for the rationalisation of operations at Shotton Works, and this was acknowledged by your Private Secretary on 24th August. Since that time, there has been a particularly interesting development, of which you should be made aware.

Approaches have been made to me personally, and to others here, concerning the possibility of Shotton Works either being removed from the structure of the British Steel Corporation and established as a B.P.-type of holding, with joint Government-private enterprise financial support, or of being hived-off to a private company.

The former idea has been mooted publicly by an ex-Shotton and B.S.C. Strip Mill Division director, Mr. Stephen Gray, of Soughton, near Mold, but the latter has merely been the subject of discreet enquiries concerning, as far as I am aware, likely trades union attitude to such a proposition. I have reason to believe that further enquiries have been made about the financial implications of private purchase of the plant.

Furthermore, approaches have been made to me by a person, purporting to be associated with the Conservative Party Central Political Studies department. Perhaps all these enquiries point to a 'common interest' in what may well be passing through the minds of members of H.M. Government.

Acting for a committee which has a mandate from the workforce to retain steelmaking at Shotton; I have sounded out the opinion of a number of trades union lay and full-time officials at national and local level and feel that you should know that their reaction to Shotton Works being retained as a fully-integrated plant outside B.S.C. is a favourable one.

Strong feeling has been expressed in several quarters, including within the Conservative Party, that there could be a place for Shotton Works as a 'second source' supplier of wide strip mill products, to win back the share of the home market lost by B.S.C. in recent years.

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P., P.C.,  
Prime Minister,  
LONDON.

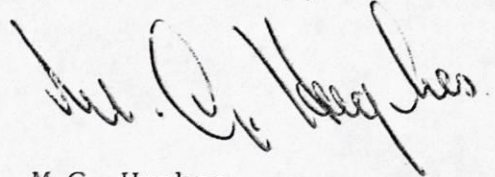
23rd October, 1979.

If there is a possibility of Shotton 'changing hands', it is, in my view, imperative that constraints are placed on the British Steel Corporation to prevent demolition of plant vital to any future configuration in any agreed post-closure situation.

I am keeping Mr. Peter Morrison, the M.P. for Chester, fully in touch with the situation as it affects Shotton and tentative arrangements have been made with representatives of one of the non-B.S.C. parties interested in the future of Shotton Works for a meeting in London on 8th November - the day prior to the vital meeting between B.S.C. and the T.U.C.'s national steel committee.

I intend to keep the contents of this letter confidential but you may feel that an informal meeting may benefit all parties interested in the future well-being of Shotton and its work people, the British Steel industry and the nation.

Yours sincerely,



M.G. Hughes,  
Chairman.

c.c. Mr. Peter Morrison.

WORKS PERFORMANCE

WEEK-ENDED: 20th October, 1979.

*NOT A BAD PERFORMANCE BY A WORK FORCE UNDER THREAT!*

UNIT	TARGET TONNES LAST WEEK	ACTUAL TONNES LAST WEEK	COMMENTS ON LAST WEEKS PERFORMANCE.																								
BELL COKE	3,700	3,689																									
IRON	17,000	17,528																									
STEEL	24,000	26,612	An encouraging week.																								
SLABS	21,000	21,664																									
HOT MILL	18,500	18,805	<p><u>YIELD FOR WEEK 98.13% AGAINST STANDARD OF 95.61%</u></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Turn.</th> <th>Slabs Returned.</th> <th>No. of Plates.</th> <th>No. of Cobbles.</th> <th>Coils for Retreat.</th> <th>Tonnes to Stock.</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>A</td> <td>6</td> <td>3</td> <td>4</td> <td>4</td> <td>269</td> </tr> <tr> <td>B</td> <td>3</td> <td>3</td> <td>2</td> <td>2</td> <td>216</td> </tr> <tr> <td>C</td> <td>7</td> <td>7</td> <td>4</td> <td>-</td> <td>107</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Turn.	Slabs Returned.	No. of Plates.	No. of Cobbles.	Coils for Retreat.	Tonnes to Stock.	A	6	3	4	4	269	B	3	3	2	2	216	C	7	7	4	-	107
Turn.	Slabs Returned.	No. of Plates.	No. of Cobbles.	Coils for Retreat.	Tonnes to Stock.																						
A	6	3	4	4	269																						
B	3	3	2	2	216																						
C	7	7	4	-	107																						
PICKLE	16,500	17,565																									
COLD REDUCTION	16,500	16,606																									
COATING LINES	12,100	11,427	4 shifts planned maintenance on No.5 Galv.																								
DELIVERIES	17,500	17,335	Customers are still restricting delivery.																								