

9 February 1981

The Right Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON

Dear Prime Minister

We, the Works employees of the Duport Steel Works, Llanelli, Dyfed appeal to you to intervene on our behalf with the Department of Industry.

We all feel that we have met the criteria you have expected of British Industry, and we enumerate them as follows:

1 Good and sensible Industrial Relations -

We have achieved with a minimum of friction, a radical demanning level from 2500 to 1000 employees, over a period of 3 years.

2 A Competitive level of Production

The new manning levels have come as a result of investment in electric arc furnaces and billet finishing facilities.

This gives figures of 500 tonnes per man year of liquid steel and 400 tonnes per man year of sold billets.

3 Investment and Future Development

Further projected developments have had to be temporarily shelved but their intention was to further enhance our productivity and output whilst reducing costs, but our productive efforts have been vitiated by the financial advantages which BSC now enjoy through subsidy.

We cannot in the present harsh economic environment compete against such competitive aggression, funded as it is by Government finance. Duport Steel Works, a unit probably amongst the most modern in Europe, at its level, will be cast aside when it has fulfilled all the essential criteria.

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In conclusion we all realise that industry is cyclical in its demand; what we fail to understand is why we are being disadvantaged to such a high degree by the amount of support given to the BSC to ensure their survival, when we have been unable to be favoured in a similar manner.

We reiterate our earnest appeal for your support.

Yours sincerely

J. Davies
 Donald Evans.
 D. Evans
 P. A. Small
 H. A. Hill.
 R. D. Thomas
 W. R. Danks
 John
 P. E. [unclear]
 W. G. Evans
 R. Jenkins
 R. D. Mayze.
 Wyn Thomas
 Tony Nelson.
 [unclear]
 P. K. Phelps.
 [unclear]

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