

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE LEADER OF THE CITY COUNCIL

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11th February 1981

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

Dear Prime Minister,

Closure of Tate & Lyle's Refinery at Liverpool

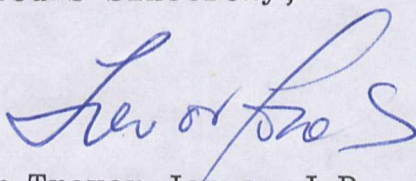
I understand that you made a statement in the House of Commons yesterday in which you indicated that you would be refusing the request from Liverpool for a meeting to discuss the proposed closure of the Tate and Lyle's Refinery. This statement, if I understand it correctly, is a hammer blow to the hopes of many thousands of people in the City of Liverpool.

The threatened closure of Tate and Lyle has produced a spontaneous knitting together of a wide cross-section of the community including all political parties on the Council, Liverpool Members of Parliament, Merseyside European Members of Parliament, Trade Unions, Church Leaders and the Chamber of Commerce and Industry. Indeed it is true to say that our aims have even received the support of Earl Jellicoe, the Chairman of Tate and Lyle, who would also like to have joined our delegation to see you.

Our investigations into this proposed closure clearly establish that the jobs at the Refinery can be saved at no cost to the taxpayer and with no loss of jobs elsewhere in the United Kingdom. The simple requirement is a realistic setting of the beet quota and I believe that you could bring this about.

I can only assume that you have not been given the full facts of the matter because I never thought of you as someone who would be so callous as to refuse to listen to a reasonable argument. I believe that there is a very strong case to be put forward on both social and economic grounds and that you may very well be persuaded to see our point of view. I should be extremely grateful, therefore, if you would reconsider our request for a personal meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Sir Trevor Jones, J.P.