

—THE—

CONFEDERATION OF SHIPBUILDING & ENGINEERING UNIONS

AREA 5a, DISTRICT COMMITTEE, (ISLE OF WIGHT).

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

District Office :
4 Magdalen Crescent
Cowes,
Isle of Wight.

1st May 1981

R215

Dear Prime Minister,

Elliott Turbomachinery Ltd. - Cowes

Following the much appreciated visit by Mr. Hamish Gray, Minister for Energy, to the above establishment I feel in view of the extreme importance and urgency that I must contact you directly. Assuming that Mr. Gray and Mr. Stephen Ross, M.P. have provided you with the background I am sure that in view of the imminent total closure now concerning this workforce it is correct to involve your office.

Recently it has been announced that the Mossmorran bulk compressor order, valued at substantial millions which would have provided the Cowes workforce with an estimated 14 months secure employment, has been awarded to Manns of Germany. This situation, let it suffice to say, is unforgiveable and infuriating. Heaven knows! Why? However it is apparent that the F.F.O agreements, memorandums, codes, those responsible or otherwise for implementing them are just not worth a 'tuppenny jot'. I question our democratic institutions when such abuses against and lack of consideration for these working people can be so obviously ignored as opposed to that selfishly or otherwise afforded to the interests and 'requirements' of others involved.

Secondly and more to the purpose of this correspondence, I am reliably informed that very recent talks with a true U.K. purchaser of this going and viable concern are reported to have gone very well indeed. However, other licencees and/or competitors abroad are 'on the ball' as far as protecting their interests are concerned. They will apply utmost pressure on E.T.L./United Technology which could probably adversely affect any or all U.K. interests and the only outcome desired by us.

I therefore in the strongest possible terms permissible urge that your office of Prime Minister, representing her Majesty's Government, our highest democratic institution, direct its powers, including finance (if required) at home and abroad either diplomatically or otherwise to prevent the absurd closure of this important unique U.K. establishment with a proud 300 year heritage, and facility currently serving the U.K.'s vital industry and economy.

I anxiously await your reply and immediate action.

Yours sincerely,

A. Sim

District Secretary.

Copies to - Various Ministers, M.P's and C.S.E.U. General Secretary.