

VC



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

24 March 1983

Dear Mr. Smith,

Thank you for your letter of 12 March about the future of the British Steel Corporation's plant at Ravenscraig/Gartcosh.

As Patrick Jenkin made clear to the House at Question time on 14 March, the Government have received no formal proposal from the BSC about a deal with an American steel company. Negotiations of that type would initially be a matter for the Corporation, though we would of course expect BSC to consult us about such an arrangement before any final decisions were taken.

In the absence of a formal proposal, the question whether it is acceptable or consistent with our statement of 20 December last year clearly does not arise.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. John Smith, MP.

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