

THE ELECTRICITY COUNCIL

From
AUSTIN W. BUNCH, C.B.E.
Chairman

30 MILLBANK
LONDON, SW1P 4RD
TELEPHONE: 01-834 2333

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

EB
9 September 1982

Dear Prime Minister

I am writing to you as Chairman of British Electricity International Ltd, which as you know is the overseas consultancy arm of the UK Electricity Supply Industry. BEI transfers technology on a commercial basis to overseas power utilities and it is our objective (for obvious reasons unannounced) to act in a way in which we can best support the UK export effort in the power supply field.

I am therefore very pleased to hear that you have agreed to formally open the Castle Peak 'A' Power Station, built by the China Light & Power Company, in Hong Kong on 28 September. Unfortunately I cannot be there, although Stephen Baker, BEI's Managing Director will be.

Whilst no doubt you will be well briefed as to the involvement of British Industry in this important project, you may not be fully aware of the role that BEI has played in the development, construction and operation of the 'A' Station and is continuing to play in a similar way on the new 'B' Station. We have also been involved in the design and construction of the new 400 kV transmission system in Kowloon and the New Territories.

Cont/....

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP

9 September 1982

For the 'A' Station, we have supplied some 300 man years of technical support to China Light & Power, covering engineering design and station layout, transmission system design, quality assurance during the course of manufacture, technical support during the construction period, the provision of commissioning and operating staff and the supply of a training simulator.

It is fair to say that the success of these projects has been due in no small part to the continued support by BEI which presently has some 27 members of its staff, mainly drawn from the CEGB, resident with their families in Hong Kong. I hope that you will have the opportunity of meeting some of them during your visit. Their presence as "BEI" personnel is not too apparent since, for political (with a small p) reasons they are all treated as expatriate employees of C.L. & P.

I thought I should remind you of our involvement in this project which is an example of how the technology of a national industry is being deployed in support of a UK hardware package.

Hong Kong, thanks to Lord Kadoorie and Bill Stones, was the first of these packages, and you have of course been personally involved with the Indian proposal where we are similarly engaged.

I wish you every success in your Far Eastern visit.

Yours Sincerely
Justin O'Donnell

File

285

14 September 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 9 September about the role of British Electricity International Limited in the development, construction and operation of the Castle Peak A and B Power Stations. We have included your letter in the Prime Minister's briefing for the visit.

The Prime Minister will, I know, be grateful for your good wishes for this very important visit.

M. C. SCHOLAR

Austin W. Bunch, Esq., C.B.E.