



PRIME MINISTER

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Prime Minister:

If you would  
like to write to  
Mr Hughes, a draft  
reply is attached

DT 1/2

I am sure you will recall the meeting with Sean Hughes on 8 December and his concern about the effects on Knowsley of the closure of the Huntley and Palmer factory. We discussed the role which enterprise agencies could play in helping new businesses to provide permanent jobs, and you asked me to explore this idea with Sean Hughes and other local interests.

We had a very constructive meeting at the offices of the St Helens Trust on 13 January, at which I showed the video which DTI commissioned (called "Help Yourself") as part of a presentation on enterprise agencies. I am delighted to say that plans are well advanced to establish one in Knowsley, and I think that there is now a great deal of enthusiasm among local groups. I have been invited to launch it: the proposed date is 12 March.

As promised, I approached Basil Collins (Chairman of Nabisco Ltd which owns Huntley and Palmer) and he has offered to substantially increase (to £5,000) the company's planned support - I attach a copy of his letter.

I have been very encouraged by the interest shown and the responses which I have met.

25 January 1984

David Trippier

Enc.