



MRS RYDER

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

22 November 1984

The Prime Minister has received the attached letter from Mr Gordon Brown MP seeking a meeting to discuss closures in his constituency. Mrs Thatcher has agreed to such a meeting and we are waiting for Mr Brown to contact us to arrange a time and date. When he does so I shall be grateful if you could arrange for suitable briefing to be produced for the Prime Minister and for a Scottish Office Minister to be present. Caroline Ryder will let you know when the meeting has been arranged.

Mr Stewart

(Tim Flesher)

John Graham Esq  
Scottish Office

RF

cf.  
arranged for TUE 11  
December at 1545  
H.C. Scottish Office  
Carly back to  
let us know what  
Minister will be  
present.

CR  
28/11



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

22 November 1984

The Prime Minister has asked me to thank you for your letter of 16 November seeking a meeting with her to discuss closures in your constituency. Mrs Thatcher would be delighted to agree to such a meeting and I shall be grateful if you could contact this office to arrange a suitable time and date.

(Tim Flesher)

Gordon Brown, Esq., MP.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher  
The Prime Minister  
House of Commons  
London

16 November 1984

Dear Prime Minister,

You will recall your statement in the House of Commons that you are prepared to meet Members of Parliament from constituencies where redundancies and closures are taking place to discuss the position in their areas with them.

I am now writing to seek an early meeting with you to examine the deteriorating unemployment position in my constituency. Last week the clothing firm, MANCLARK, announced that their factory would cease production within weeks, and this week, with the opening of the Shell N.G.L. plant at Mossmorran, construction employment has ceased. In the coming year 4,000 additional jobs will be lost at the Esso construction site as it too comes on stream. To replace the 8,000 construction jobs there are less than 400 permanent jobs at the plant.

At the same time jobs are at risk in the open cast industry at Westfield, at the Inverkeithing Paper Mill, at the Jelltek clothing factory, and in the deep mines. The major employer in my constituency, Her Majesty's Royal Dockyard at Rosyth, has also been informed of the risk of the first compulsory redundancies of civilian employees.

Unemployment has risen by more than 500 in my constituency over the past year. This is a rise of more than 10%. The local authorities in my area are so concerned about the threat to regional aid status that, following a local conference, many constituents will be sending you letters protesting about any possible downgrading of development status for the area. One of the aspects of that concern is the redrawing of travel to work boundaries on such an arbitrary basis that overnight, while the numbers out of work are rising, the unemployment rate in the Dunfermline Travel to Work area has fallen.

In these circumstances I hope you can meet me to discuss the problems that we have.

Yours sincerely,

Gordon Brown

R20

Prime Minister:

Agree to  
this meeting?

D  
29/11

Yes  
not