

PH
Invergordon

OK

Prime Minister

VB

c. 80



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 May 1982

Dear Mr. Finlayson:

Thank you for your letter of 6 May about Invergordon. You also wrote to George Younger and to Alex Fletcher. I am very grateful for your encouragement and support at this difficult time.

I am pleased that we are now able to open discussions with potential new operators of the Invergordon smelter, even though the forthcoming negotiations will not be easy in the present depressed state of the aluminium industry. I very much share your hope that arrangements which we shall be exploring with interested companies will enable the smelter to be brought back into operation soon.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

G.D. Finlayson, Esq., J.P.

808



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

W F S Rickett Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

20 May 1982

Muir
20/5
Hon Willie

INVERGORDON

I refer to your letter of 10 May and attach, for the Prime Minister's consideration, a draft reply to Mr Finlayson, Convener of Ross and Cromarty District Council.

Tom,
Muir.

A MUIR RUSSELL
Private Secretary

DRAFT REPLY FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO

G D Finlayson Esq JP
Convener
Ross and Cromarty District Council
The Birches
West Road
Muir of Ord
IV6 7QN

Thank you for your letter of 6 May about Invergordon. You also wrote to George Younger and to Alex Fletcher. I am very grateful for your encouragement and support at this difficult time.

I am pleased that we are now able to open discussions with potential new operators of the Invergordon smelter, even though the forthcoming negotiations will not be easy in the present depressed state of the aluminium industry. I very much share your hope that arrangements which we shall be exploring with interested companies will enable the smelter to be brought back into operation soon.

G. D. Finlayson
24/5

10 May 1982


I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to acknowledge your letter to her of 6 May. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

Should be grateful if you could provide a reply for the Prime Minister's signature and if this could reach me by Monday 24 May.

WFSR

WFR

G.D. Finlayson, Esq., J.P.

Muir Russell, Esq.,
Scottish Office.

ROSS AND CROMARTY DISTRICT COUNCIL

Convener of the District,
G. D. Finlayson, J.P.

Telephone No. Muir of Ord 870677



"The Birches",
West Road,
MUIR OF ORD.
IV6 7QN

GDF/BJM

6th May, 1982

The Right Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

Dear Mrs Thatcher,

I should like to express, on behalf of the Members of Ross and Cromarty District Council, our most sincere appreciation for the announcement recently made on what appears to be a favourable power contract which will enable negotiations to proceed with Companies who have shown an interest in the reactivation of the Invergordon Smelter. From the outset we have seen no real alternative to the problems facing the Highlands, and in particular Ross and Cromarty District, other than the Smelter being brought back into operation at the earliest possible date.

The interest which you have shown in our problems and your endeavours to reach a solution are extremely heartening to us all and I therefore wish to convey to you my own very personal thanks.

May I, in conclusion, wish you every success in reaching a just and lasting settlement to the Falklands crisis which is uppermost in all our thoughts. We in the Highlands have a long association with the Falklands, spanning the last one hundred and fifty years. Our thoughts and prayers go with you at this time of sadness.

Yours very sincerely,

G.D. Finlayson
CONVENER