



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 May 1984

SF 11

I enclose a copy of a letter to the Prime Minister from Sir Austin Bide, the subject matter of which is relevant to the letter from Mr. Plastow which Andrew Turnbull sent you on 24 May. I should be grateful for urgent advice on how you think this letter should be handled.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosures to David Peretz (HM Treasury) and Peter Ricketts (Foreign and Commonwealth Office).

David Barclay

Miss Ruth Thompson
Department of Trade and Industry.

JK



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 May 1984

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 24 May.

I have placed your letter before her, and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

David Barclay

Sir Austin Bide.

AB

file 6
24 May 1984

You will wish to know that the Prime Minister has received a letter from Mr. Plastow of Rolls Royce on the impact of European car exports of US legislation for the taxation of benefits in kind. This is receiving attention.

Andrew Turnbull

John Egan, Esq.

ES



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister (2)

You should be aware of
this problem. I am seeking
advice on how you should
reply

AT

24/5

MB

SVD GR Act / Reply asap

SEN



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BY HAND

24th May 1984

Dear Prime Minister,

I feel that I must bring to your attention the legislation pending before the United States Congress which will limit the potential size of the United States luxury car market largely dominated by imports from the U.K. and Germany. My understanding is that critical moves are imminent.

We believe that we are now the leading exporter from the U.K. into the United States and perceive this legislation as protectionist against the U.K.; notwithstanding we are one of the United States most loyal trading partners.

We are mobilizing public opinion among United States owners and dealers who support our position and many are contacting their congressional representatives. We have communicated our views to the President's Special Trade representative, Ambassador Brock, as well as to Secretary Baldrige and the Administration appears to believe that approaches directly to President Regan would be appropriate and helpful.

I hear that Chancellor Kohl has telephoned the President expressing his concern in respect of Mercedes Benz and BMW.

I could hardly exaggerate the importance of this matter in relation to BL/Jaguar plans and I wonder if I can prevail upon you to intervene personally.

If I or my colleagues can assist with further information we shall be happy to do so.

My apologies for being a bother but I know you will understand my anxiety.

*Sincerely,
Austin Bide*

Sir Austin Bide
Chairman

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

cc The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP
Mr. Norman Lamont, MP

Directors: D. R. G. Andrews, C.B.E., Sir Austin Bide,
Sir Robert Clark, D.S.C., R. Horrocks, C.B.E.,
Sir Robert Hunt, C.B.E., D.L.,
Sir John Mayhew-Sanders.

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