5th November 1981

Thenk you so much for your letter of 30th October.

The Prime Minister would like to meet Sir Ernie Harrison, and we will arrange this.

The Prime Minister's diary is horribly overcrowded at present and it may be a little time before a meeting can be arranged. I think it would probably be helpful if you were present as well.

Ian Gow Parliamentary Private Secretary

Kenneth Baker Esq MP

cc. Contini Stephens.



FROM THE MINISTER OF STATE FOR INDUSTRY AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

KENNETH BAKER MP

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30 October 1981

Dew Jan.

This week I saw Sir Ernie Harrison, Chairman of Racal. He has made this company into one of the most successful electronics companies in the UK with most of its business overseas. He is one of our real stars. He is a very robust character who strongly supports what we have done over the last two years to put industry into a more competitive position.

He is passionately concerned that we win the next election and favours a mild reflation to achieve this, as the other side will blow the top off with wild reflationary expenditure should they win. I am sure that Margaret would like to meet him - he'll certainly cheer her up after a bad day! Geoffrey Pattie has also seen him recently and thinks that a meeting would be useful.

I am copying this to Geoffrey Pattie.

KENNETH BAKER