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Arranged for 14:00 on  
Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup>.

Prime Minister

②

1/1nd meeting Brey  
Ch. 11/4

ALCAN ALUMINIUM LIMITED

1. Herewith John Peyton's letter to you dated 1st March, and reply to him for your signature, please.
2. John Peyton has since been in touch with me and has asked whether you will see him and Mr David Culver, the President and Chief Executive of Alcan, who will be in London on 13th and 14th April.
3. Herewith letter dated 30th March from the Department of Industry which recommends (predictably) that you should not see Mr Culver.
4. If you did agree to see Mr Culver, I am sure that you ought not to discuss with him the matters currently under discussion with the Secretaries of State for Industry and Energy; they are both doing all that they can.
5. The disagreeable truth is that John Peyton is anxious to enhance his own standing within the Alcan group by seeking to arrange for you to see the President of the parent company of whose subsidiary John is Chairman. We have come across this before with Edward du Cann.
6. With considerable reluctance, I think that you ought to agree to see John Peyton and the President, Mr David Culver, for a quarter of an hour only, which you could manage at your room at the House immediately after Questions on Thursday 14th April.

7. Do you agree, please?

Yes - but substantial difficulties  
would have to be placed elsewhere - i.e.  
not at London or Energy.

Tessa

6.4.83

IAN GOW

cc. Caroline

GRZ A

JH 425



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Secretary of State for Industry

30 March 1983

Michael Scholar Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

*Dear Michael,*

BRITISH ALCAN - COAL SUPPLIES FOR LYNEMOUTH

Mr John Peyton wrote to the Prime Minister about this on 1 March enclosing a memorandum from the company.

2 We spoke and as you are aware, the Secretary of State for Energy wrote to my Secretary of State on 15 March proposing a basis on which the NCB should negotiate with British Alcan. My Secretary of State replied on 21 March with comments and the Secretary of State for Scotland has also commented (I attach copies of the correspondence). We understand that Mr Lawson agrees (a letter from him should follow shortly) that negotiations should be resumed between British Alcan and the NCB on the lines he and my Secretary of State have discussed. All that seems necessary, therefore, is a short reply to Mr Peyton recommending British Alcan to resume negotiations with the NCB. I enclose a draft to this effect.

3 Mr Peyton has also asked the Prime Minister to see Mr David Culver, the President and Chief Executive of the Alcan parent for a quarter of an hour on 13/14 April - your letter to us of 24 March. We see no need for the Prime Minister to see Mr Culver. My Secretary of State would have been happy to see Mr Culver, whom he saw in January last year but Mr Jenkin will be in the US. The Minister of State concerned, Mr Kenneth Baker, will also be abroad. However, Mr Norman Lamont could see Mr Culver at a convenient time on 13 April or Mr John MacGregor, on whose side British Alcan falls, could see him on either day. You may care to propose this to Mr Peyton. Mr Culver will in any case be seeing Sir Peter Carey on 13 April.

4 A copy of this letter goes to Caroline Brooks (D/En).

*Yours ever*  
*Caroline Varley*

CAROLINE VARLEY  
Private Secretary

Encl

*pl type WPM*

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO  
MR JOHN PEYTON



BRITISH ALCAN - COAL SUPPLIES FOR LYNEMOUTH

Thank you for your letter of 1 March with which you enclosed a memorandum by British Alcan.

*I am sorry that*

(It has taken us a little time to consider this complicated problem. Nigel Lawson *is* now writing to Norman Siddall suggesting that discussions with British Alcan about the terms of supply of coal to the Lynemouth power station be resumed. I suggest that the next step is for British Alcan to arrange a meeting with the <sup>*National Coal*</sup> Board.

I am sending copies of this letter to Patrick Jenkin and Nigel Lawson.



John PEYTON, MP 31/3

David CULVER of Alcan.

SP

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 March 1983

I wrote to you on 1 March about Mr. John Peyton's letter to the Prime Minister about the difficulties faced by the aluminium industry.

Meanwhile, the Prime Minister has been asked, via Mr. Peyton, whether she will see Mr. David Culver, the President and Chief Executive of Alcan, on 13/14 April for "a quarter of an hour".

I should be grateful if you would let us have advice on this, as soon as possible, at the same time as you send the draft reply to Mr. Peyton.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Julian West (Department of Energy).

M. C. SCHOLAR

Jonathan Spencer, Esq.,  
Department of Industry.

D.R.

CF → GR PP's ?  
PPS PL CLR  
MLI 24/3

Michael Scholar

THE RT HON JOHN PEYTON MP

1. You will remember the letter which arrived last week, from Mr John Peyton, about Alcan.
2. I have had a message from Mr Peyton, in which he says that Mr David Culver, the President and Chief Executive of Alcan, will be in England on 13th and 14th April.
3. Mr Peyton asks whether the Prime Minister would agree to see him for a quarter of an hour.
4. I think that your advice will depend on the extent to which we are able to send to Mr Peyton a satisfactory reply to the letter which we received last week.

23.3.83

IAN GOW