

889113 PO SW G
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J51 LONDON TLX 255/242 7 1028

Mr Lamberton
✓ yours?

2/15

R7/5



Rumour

THE PRIME MINISTER 10 DOWNING STREET

URGENT: FROM ICL USER CONVENTION

*I have
acknowledged
this.*

REPRESENTATIVES FROM 100 PRIVATE AND PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS USING ICL COMPUTERS WISH TO MAKE AN URGENT APPEAL TO YOU ABOUT THE FUTURE OF ICL. BRITAIN'S STRENGTH IN THE USE, DESIGN AND PRODUCTION OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OWES A GREAT DEAL TO THE PRESENCE IN THE UK OF ICL RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT AND MANUFACTURING CENTRES. THIS HAS BEEN IMPORTANT, FOR EXAMPLE, IN HELPING TO CREATE BRITAIN'S SOFTWARE INDUSTRY. AS USERS WE HAVE ~~ENJOYED~~ ENJOYED A UNIQUE RELATIONSHIP WITH ICL THAT HAS BEEN OF MUTUAL BENEFIT. HAVING ICL'S KEY DEVELOPMENTS IN THE UK ALLOWS THE GOVERNMENT TO USE ITS PURCHASE POWER TO SHARE PRODUCT STRATEGIES. IT ALSO MEANS THAT USERS CAN PARTICIPATE IN PRODUCT DEVELOPMENTS AND BUILD UP EXPERTISE IN CRUCIAL SYSTEMS AND SOFTWARE SKILLS. WE BELIEVE THAT ICL NOW HAS A GOOD PRODUCT LINE. WE HAVE INVESTED MUCH MONEY IN HELPING IN THIS DEVELOPMENT. IT WOULD BE A TRAGEDY FOR USERS AND THE NATION AS A WHOLE IF WE LOSE THE REWARDS OF THIS INVESTMENT NOW THAT IT IS ABOUT TO BEAR FRUIT. WE ALSO URGE YOU TO INSIST THAT ANY DECISION ABOUT ICL WILL ENSURE THAT THE COMPANY'S LONG TERM FUTURE IS SECURED ONCE AND FOR ALL. I WOULD BE PLEASED TO DISCUSS THE VIEWS OF ICL USERS WITH YOU OR ONE OF YOUR MINISTERS AT YOUR EARLIEST POSSIBLE CONVENIENCE.

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GOULD, CHAIRMAN ICL COMPUTER USER ASSOCIATION
C/O THE ICL USER'S CONVENTION THE GRAND HOTEL
EASTBOURNE

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10 DOWNING STREET

TIM

The text of the telegram will be arriving later today, but ICL Users Convention were very anxious that the Prime Minister would see this urgently and so dictated an advance text.

James Burgess

7 May 1981

ADVANCE OF A TELEGRAM FOR THE PRIME MINISTER FROM GOOLD, CHAIRMAN,
ICL COMPUTER USERS ASSOCIATION, C/O THE ICL USERS CONVENTION,
GRAND HOTEL, EASTBOURNE.

Representatives from 100 private and public organisations using ICL computers wish to make an urgent appeal to you about the future of ICL. Britain's strength in the use, design and production of information technology owes a great deal to the presence in the UK of ICL research development and manufacturing centres. This has been important for example in helping to create Britain's software industry.

As users we have enjoyed a unique relationship with ICL that has been of mutual benefit. Having ICL's key developments in the UK allows the Government to use its purchase power to shape project strategies. It also means that users can participate in products development and build up expertise in crucial systems and software skills.

We believe that ICL now have a good product line. We have invested much money in helping in this development. It would be a tragedy for users and the nation as a whole if we lose the rewards of this investment now that it is about to bear fruit. We also urge you to insist that any decision about ICL will ensure that the company's long-term future is secured once and for all. I would be pleased to discuss the views of ICL users with you or one of your Ministers at your earliest possible convenience.

Copies sent to: Lord Soames, Sir Keith Joseph, Kenneth Baker, G. Watson (CCTA, Riverwalk House) and R. Atkinson (DOI, Dean Bradley House).



CF to hle

Flk

Econ Pd

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

8 May 1981

I am writing to acknowledge your telegram about ICL which I have brought to the Prime Minister's attention.

T. P. LANKESTER

Mr. Goold.

Flk