



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

22 December 1981

Dear Mr. Kaufman,

When we discussed the closure of ICL's Plymouth Grove Factory on 23 November I asked Kenneth Baker to look into the points which you had made.

As agreed at our meeting, Kenneth Baker asked the NEB to consider your suggestion that they might take over Plymouth Grove as a separate concern doing contract work on printed circuit boards. I understand that the NEB had in fact looked into this possibility a couple of months earlier but concluded that there was no commercially viable business in prospect. However, the NEB agreed to pay a further visit to the factory in order to make a full assessment of your proposal and you then had a full discussion on 7 December with the Board's Regional Director and the Head of their Information Technology Division.

I understand that the NEB confirmed that it remained their view that an investment along the lines you suggested would not be commercially viable and in the circumstances you agreed that the only alternative seemed to be to try to identify a manufacturer or group of manufacturers who might be interested in continuing the production of printed circuit boards at Plymouth Grove. Kenneth Baker is writing to you separately about your suggestion that the Department of Industry's Invest in Britain Bureau might have a role to play in this.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Nicholson

The Rt. Hon. Gerald Kaufman, M.P.

ds



DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
 ASHDOWN HOUSE
 123 VICTORIA STREET
 LONDON SW1E 6RB

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FROM THE
 MINISTER OF STATE
 FOR INDUSTRY AND
 INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-212
 SWITCHBOARD 01-212 7676

KENNETH BAKER'S OFFICE

cf pps?

Mike Pattison Esq
 Private Secretary to the
 Prime Minister
 10 Downing Street
 LONDON SW1

18 December 1981

*Type draft for PM ✓
 cc I.G.
 MP 21/11*

Dear Mike,

ICL PLYMOUTH GROVE

Thank you for your letter of 10 December. I attach a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Mr Kaufman.

Since his meeting with the NEB on 7 December, Mr Kaufman has also written to Mr Baker with the new suggestion mentioned in the draft that the Department's Invest in Britain Bureau could help to identify foreign manufacturers interested in continuing the production of printed circuit boards at Plymouth Grove. Mr Baker is writing to tell Mr Kaufman that the IBB have already conducted a full assessment of the possibilities without identifying any potential overseas buyers, but that a UK company, Unitech has expressed an interest and which it will be discussing with ICL.

*Yours sincerely,
 Jonathan Hudson*

JONATHAN HUDSON
 PRIVATE SECRETARY

M22/M22ABR

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER

The Rt Hon Gerald Kaufman MP
House of Commons
LONDON SW1A 0AA

When we discussed the closure of ICL's Plymouth Grove Factory on 23 November I asked Kenneth Baker to look into the points which you had made.

As agreed at our meeting, Kenneth Baker asked the NEB to consider your suggestion that they might take over Plymouth Grove as a separate concern doing contract work on printed circuit boards. I understand that the NEB had in fact looked into this possibility a couple of months earlier but concluded that there was no commercially viable business in prospect. However, the NEB agreed to pay a further visit to the factory in order to make a full assessment of your proposal and you then had a full discussion on 7 December with the Board's Regional Director and the Head of their Information Technology Division.

I understand that the NEB confirmed that it remained their view that an investment along the lines you suggested would not be commercially viable and in the circumstances you agreed that the only alternative seemed to be to try to identify a manufacturer or group of manufacturers who might be interested in continuing the production of printed circuit boards at Plymouth Grove. Kenneth Baker is writing to you separately about your suggestion that the Department of Industry's Invest in Britain Bureau might have a role to play in this.

M22/M22ABQ

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10 December, 1981

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Thank you for your letter of 4 December, following the meeting here with Mr. Gerald Kaufman, M.P. about ICL Plymouth Grove.

The Prime Minister would like to send a brief letter to Mr. Kaufman, essentially recording the points made in your letter. Perhaps you could let me have a suitable draft.

M. A. PATTISON

Jonathan Hudson, Esq.,
Department of Industry



FROM THE
MINISTER OF STATE
FOR INDUSTRY AND
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
KENNETH BAKER'S OFFICE

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
ASHDOWN HOUSE
123 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1E 6RB

6401

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-212
SWITCHBOARD 01-212 7676

Prime Minister

*Agree that you need not write
to Mr Kaufman?*

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

4 December 1981

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Dear Mike,

*I think we
should
record all
these things
in a letter
not*

ICL PLYMOUTH GROVE

Thank you for your letter of 23 November recording the outcome of the Prime Minister's meeting with Mr Kaufman, which Mr Baker attended.

As agreed at the meeting, Mr Baker invited the NEB to consider Mr Kaufman's suggestion that it might take over Plymouth Grove as a separate concern, doing contract work on printed circuit boards. Following discussions which the Department had had with Mr Wilmot, the NEB had looked into this possibility a couple of months ago but concluded then that there was not a commercially viable business in prospect. The NEB have now taken the opportunity of paying a further visit to the factory in order to be able to respond specifically to Mr Kaufman's proposal. They have invited him to a meeting to discuss the matter on Monday, 7 December with the NEB's Regional Director and the Head of their Information Technology Division.

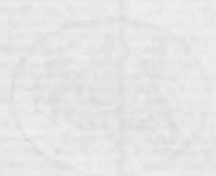
Mr Kaufman will be fully aware therefore that his suggestion has been acted upon. He will have an opportunity to discuss the NEB's reaction to his proposal at first hand. Mr Baker is due to meet Sir Freddie Wood, Chairman of the NEB, for lunch on Friday, 11 December and can take up with him any further action that would seem appropriate. In these circumstances Mr Baker does not think the Prime Minister need write to Mr Kaufman.

Yours sincerely,

Jonathan Hudson

JONATHAN HUDSON
PRIVATE SECRETARY

M20/M20AAT



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