

TRADES UNION CONGRESS

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

YOUR REFERENCE

OUR REFERENCE LM/DL/DT/RWE/JW

DEPARTMENT Secretary's

23rd July, 1982.

Dear Prime Minister,

Atlantic Conveyor

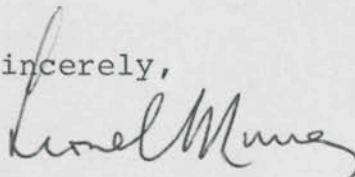
I am writing to you arising from a meeting today between a trade union delegation and Lord Matthews, Chairman of Cunard, to express to him our concern at the possibility that the replacement for the Atlantic Conveyor may be built in a foreign shipyard. The delegation included representatives of the TUC Economic and Steel Committees, and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions. The broad based composition of the delegation indicates the widespread concern on this issue in the trade union Movement.

Lord Matthews assured us that the matter was not closed until the end of next week, but that at present the gap between the price quoted by British Shipbuilders, which was the cheapest in Europe, and the price quoted by a Far East shipyard could not be bridged unless Government was prepared to give some assistance.

Contact has already taken place between the interested parties at Department of Industry level, and we believe that the matter can only be resolved in a satisfactory way if we are able to discuss the matter with you directly.

In the light of the urgency involved we would welcome the opportunity to meet with you at the earliest convenient time.

Yours sincerely,



General Secretary.



10 DOWNING STREET

(1)

Prime Minister

Atlantic Conveyor

Len Murray is trying this evening to get together the necessary people for a meeting with you at 11 30 tomorrow on the Atlantic Conveyor.

MCS 26/7



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

26 July 1982

Dear Mr Murray,

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 23 July about the Atlantic Conveyor "replacement".

As I mentioned to you on the telephone earlier this evening, the Prime Minister will be happy to see the TUC about this matter. We are trying to arrange a meeting to take place tomorrow morning.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Scholar

The Rt. Hon. Lionel Murray, O.B.E.



no
atkinson
Mr Fryham

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 July 1982

Atlantic Conveyor

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from Mr. Len Murray, in which he requests a meeting between the Prime Minister and the trade union leaders most directly concerned with the Atlantic Conveyor "replacement" issue.

As I mentioned to you on the 'phone just before lunch, I should be grateful if you would see to it that included in the advice which your Minister will be putting to the Prime Minister this evening on this matter will be advice as to whether she should agree to Mr. Murray's request for a meeting.

M. C. SCHOLAR

J.H.M. Alty, Esq.,
Department of Industry.



10 DOWNING STREET

Premier's Minute

1. Mr. Jenkins recommends sticking to the decision of E(C9) and unless Mr. Hoff is prepared to make a contribution direct to Council he does not see how the MOD money can be utilised to secure the votes for BS.
2. Agree to see Leithenay and representatives of the Tvc, Economic and Steel Committee, and the Confederation of Shipbuilding and Engineering Unions, (as recommended by Mr. Jenkins).

Alan Logan

Duty Clerk

23/7/52