

Blind copy SO  
DTI

## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

24 January, 1984

You wrote to the Prime Minister on 19 January seeking, on behalf of the General Council of the Scottish TUC, a priority meeting with the Prime Minister. She is willing to hold such a meeting and can do so at 0930 hrs on Tuesday, 31 January. In agreeing to such a meeting the Prime Minister has asked me to make clear that there can be no question of the Government over-riding the commercial decisions of British Shipbuilders, nor of the Government providing additional finance to fund losses by Scott Lithgow.

When I spoke to your office today, I was told that you were inviting a number of people from the Churches and local authorities. Your letter did not mention such a wider meeting and implied that it was the General Council of the STUC that was seeking it. The Prime Minister accepted your proposal on this understanding and therefore wishes the meeting to be with the STUC alone.

(Andrew Turnbull)

J. Milne, Esq.

General Secretary  
Scottish T.U.C  
16 Woodlands Terr  
Glasgow G3

*a 20  
DTI*

24 January 1984

TELEMESSAGE  
RT HON MARGARET THATCHER MP  
PRIME MINISTER  
10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON  
SW1

*h25  
cf pms*

THE STUC REQUESTED A MEETING ON SCOTT LITHGOW IN ORDER THAT YOU MIGHT UNDERSTAND OUR VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT, AND THE VIEWS OF OTHER SECTIONS OF THE SCOTTISH COMMUNITY. WE ALSO LOOK FORWARD TO HEARING YOUR VIEWS AND HOPE THAT ON THE BASIS OF RECENT DIALOGUE A SOLUTION MIGHT BE FOUND. WE ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED AT THE RESTRICTIONS YOUR OFFICE HAS PLACED ON THE MEETING SINCE ORIGINALLY AGREEING TO IT. WE HOPE YOU WILL RECONSIDER AND MEET US AS ORIGINALLY AGREED IN ORDER TO HEAR OUR CASE. WE FURTHER HOPE THAT YOU WILL AGREE TO OUR DELEGATION INCLUDING REPRESENTATIVES OF THE CHURCHES, LOCAL AUTHORITIES, AND THE SCOTTISH COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT AND INDUSTRY. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR RESPONSE.

MR JAMES MILNE.

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Prime Minister. ①  
Content I wrote in these terms.  
AT 25/11

GR. Pl type  
as letter to  
Mr Milne

AT

DRAFT LETTER TO J. MILNE, GENERAL SECRETARY, STUC

Your teletmessage of 24 January crossed with my letter of the same date. I have consulted the Prime Minister and she has confirmed that she does wish the meeting to be confined to the STUC. The Prime Minister <sup>has done</sup> ~~does~~ her best to meet the STUC when a request is made on an issue of this kind but she believes that representations from the wider community should be made to the Secretary of State. Most of those you mention have seen Mr. Younger and the Prime Minister herself has written to many of the people involved.

mf

16 Woodlands Terrace  
Glasgow G3

19 January 1984

TELEMESSAGE  
THE RIGHT HON. MARGARET THATCHER M.P.  
PRIME MINISTER  
10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON  
SW1

R20

( THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE SCOTTISH T.U.C. SEEKS A PRIORITY MEETING  
WITH YOU TO DISCUSS THE SCOTT LITHGOW SITUATION.

THE CONSEQUENCE OF CLOSURE WOULD BE DISASTROUS.

10,000 JOBS WILL BE LOST IN GREENOCK AND THE VITAL SCOTTISH OFFSHORE  
INDUSTRY WILL SUFFER A SERIOUS BLOW.

JAMES MILNE  

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