

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NDPT

AT 18/4

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

18 April 1984

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Norman Tebbit'.

BRITISH SHIPBUILDERS: OBJECTIVES

You attached to your minute of 29 March to the Prime Minister a set of draft strategic objectives for British Shipbuilders. I am sorry not to have commented earlier.

I have no objection to your putting these objectives to Mr Day. But my agreement is on the clear understanding that they are still subject to amendment in the light of the definitive decisions we shall be taking in June on the rate of contraction necessary in merchant shipbuilding to achieve our targets for reducing and eventually eliminating expenditure on support.

I would also endorse Arthur Cockfield's suggestion that you should impress on Mr Day how important it is that the BS Corporate Plan should arrive in time to inform these decisions.

Finally, I share Arthur's feeling that, in the light of Scott Lithgow, BS should not overlook the possibility that there may still be private sector interest in yards which they themselves consider unviable.

Copies of this letter go to the Prime Minister, the other members of E(NI) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

NIGEL LAWSON

A large, stylized handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Nigel Lawson'.

Nat Ind: Shipbuilding Pt 6.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
BUREAU OF SHIPBUILDING

19 APR 1964

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