

CONFIDENTIAL

BK



10 DOWNING STREET

cc: CSO, HMT  
Lwd.  
Maff  
CO  
CPRS

cc: D. Wolfson  
B. Ingham  
J. Hoskyns

5 March 1981

From the Private Secretary

Tate & Lyle

I enclose the record of a meeting the Prime Minister had with four Conservative MPs last evening about Tate & Lyle.

You will see that the question of delays in the establishment of the Merseyside Development Corporation and the Speke Enterprise Zone was raised, and the Prime Minister had a word about this with your Secretary of State after the meeting of E Committee this morning. Mr. Heseltine explained that the main reason for the delays was the difficulty his Department was having in reaching agreement with the local authority. But he would do everything he could to speed up progress.

The Prime Minister said that, in view of the deteriorating industrial situation on Merseyside, it was essential that the UDC and EZ should come into operation at the very earliest possible. She hoped that it would be possible to make an announcement about the final establishment of the UDC and EZ by 3 April, which was the date the Tate & Lyle refinery was likely to close.

The Prime Minister and Mr. Heseltine also discussed briefly how new jobs might be stimulated by other Government initiatives on Merseyside. Mr. Heseltine said he had a number of ideas all of which would admittedly cost public money but which he believed would be worthwhile. He promised to let the Prime Minister have a note on this.

The Prime Minister has decided that she will not see the representative delegation which Sir Trevor Jones, in his letter of 23 February, has proposed the Prime Minister should meet. You kindly provided some notes on the points Sir Trevor Jones raised in his letter, and I should be grateful if you could now work these up into a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Sir Trevor. It would be helpful if I could have this by close of play tomorrow night.

CB  
6/3

/ I am sending

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I am sending a copy of this letter and enclosure to Terry Mathews (Chief Secretary's Office, HM Treasury), Ian Ellison (Department of Industry), Kate Timms (Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food), David Wright (Cabinet Office) and Gerry Spence (CPRS).

T. P. LANKESTER

David Edmonds, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment

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