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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

23 March 1981

Dear Mr. Goldrein,

Thank you for your letters of 12 and 20 February. I am sorry not to have replied earlier.

I have seen a full account of the meeting you had with Peter Walker on 16 February at which he explained the Government's position on Tate and Lyle. Since then, I have personally given a great deal of time to the Tate and Lyle closure issue; and I have - I am afraid - had to conclude that, unless the company are prepared to incur the heavy losses involved in the continued operation of the refinery, closure is inevitable.

We are, however, extremely concerned about the effect of this and other closures on Merseyside - including that of the Courtaulds factory which you mentioned in your second letter. We are therefore determined to press ahead as fast as possible with the various initiatives for improving the prospects for the area. In particular, rapid progress is now being made on the establishment of the Urban Development Corporation and of the Enterprise Zone.

Finally, I am afraid I cannot agree to the meeting which you propose. I am being kept fully informed of the situation on Merseyside by Michael Heseltine, Keith Joseph, Jim Prior, and - in the case of Tate and Lyle - Peter Walker; and if I see you, it would - I fear - be very difficult not to agree to see all the others who have asked to come in.

I am sure that our M.P.'s in the area are keeping closely in touch with you. I had a very long

County Councillor Neville C. Goldrein.

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talk with them. Clearly we have to help
Liverpool through this acutely difficult time.

I personally had a long talk with
Lord Jellicoe but I see no hope of
keeping Telford's factory open. Closure
comes as a blow to me - especially when
the company has such a wonderful workforce

Yours sincerely
Margaret Jellicoe



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

We owe a reply to Councillor Goldrein from Merseyside, who wrote to you asking for a meeting to discuss Tate and Lyle and then the Merseyside situation generally. (You signed a reply to him, but his second letter arrived just as we were about to despatch it; so we did not send it off. I am sorry not to have dealt with this sooner.)

I attach a short reply.

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20 March 1981



**Merseyside
County Council**

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County Councillor Neville C Goldrein MA (Cantab)
Leader of the Council

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The Prime Minister,
(The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP),
10 Downing Street,
LONDON. S.W.1.

18th March, 1981

Dear Prime Minister,

I wrote to you on the 20th February regarding the closures of the Liverpool plants of Tate and Lyle and Courtaulds and I received two separate acknowledgements from two Private Secretaries to say that I would be hearing from you in due course. The 90 day notices are rapidly coming to an end in both instances but I have not had any further communication from you.

This doubtless arises from the tremendous pressures under which you are working at the moment but I nevertheless hope that I shall hear from you in the very near future in view of the proposed loss of 3,000 jobs.

*Yours sincerely,
Neville Goldrein*