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Minister of State

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David Young raised it
NFA. MRF

6 April 1981

Then how did the
story of 60-40 keep reverberated
ever come about?

Prime Minister

You asked had Gowrie to
clarify the union position
on Tate + Lyle closure.

Dear Mr Pattison

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MRF 6/4

TATE & LYLE

You asked in your letter of 1 April about the union's (the T&GWU) acceptance of Tate & Lyle's decision to close their Liverpool refinery.

We understand from the refinery manager, with whom our Regional Director has been in close touch throughout the closure negotiations, that on 25 March, Tate & Lyle management agreed with national and district officers of the GMWU and some shop stewards that the plant should be closed. Substantial agreement was also reached on the level of redundancy payments which the workers were to receive, though some details remained to be finalised.

The officials of the union put the agreement to a meeting of all the shop stewards from the refinery who accepted it, and agreed to put it to a mass meeting of the workforce, recommending its acceptance. This was done on Friday 27 March when the workforce overwhelmingly accepted the closure.

There is no question of the union refusing to accept the workers' vote, or being at variance with the workers over this matter. In fact it was officials of the union who agreed the closure and scale of redundancy payments with Tate & Lyle management and recommended the acceptance of their agreement to the workforce.

Yours sincerely

David Fraser

D R FRASER
Private Secretary

15 APR 1981

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