

010 CF to keep? Courtaulds Closures  
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CYNGOR BWRDEISDREF

Wreccsam Maelor



Wrexham Maelor

BOROUGH COUNCIL

NEUADD Y DREF, WRECSAM, LL11 1AY  
Ffôn: WRECSAM 364611

GUILDHALL, WREXHAM, LL11 1AY  
Tel: WREXHAM 364611

SYDNEY F. TONGUE. IPFA FRVA

Telex: 617033

Prif Swyddog Gweithredol

Chief Executive Officer

Eich cyf:  
Your ref:

Ein cyf:  
Our ref: CEO/DAH

Dyddiad:  
Date: 30th April, 1985

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON.

Dear Prime Minister,

On behalf of my Council, I should like to express our thanks to you for allowing time in your busy schedule last Friday, to listen and be made aware of the very difficult problems that will arise if the Courtaulds' announcements are carried out.

I enclose herewith, copy of a telex which I have sent to Sir Christopher Hogg and I make reference to the misconception that the lossess to the Acetate Yarn Division of £2.1 million for the last financial year were not attributable to the Wrexham Plant as such, but refer to the losses made by the three factories within that Group, namely at Wrexham, Coventry and Derby, although previously it would appear that the inference was that the loss was solely attributable to Wrexham.

The main purpose of my Council's enquiries is to try and persuade Sir Christopher Hogg to reconsider his decision or, alternatively, delay or phase over a much longer period for possible redundancies at Wrexham, in order that we may be given the opportunity to strive for new industries, and I am sure you will be aware of our positive efforts in this field.

I would once again like to thank you for your sympathetic involvement in this difficult problem and any assistance you can give would be most welcome to our area.

Yours sincerely,

Sydney F. Tongue

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER.

Welsh  
Visit  
26/4/85

MT

AKS

ATTN: THE RT. HON. NICHOLAS EDWARDS, SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES

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FOLLOWING THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER ON FRIDAY, I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SEND THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATION TO SIR CHRISTOPHER HOGG, WHICH I HAVE UNDERTAKEN BY TELEX TODAY, IN VIEW OF THE SHORT TIME AVAILABLE FOR DECISIONS, AND I HAVE BEEN ASKED TO SEND YOU A COPY OF THE COMMUNICATION IN THE HOPE THAT YOUR OFFICE CAN BRING PRESSURE TO BEAR ON SIR CHRISTOPHER HOGG TO POSTPONE A DECISION IN RESPECT OF THE PROPOSED WREXHAM CLOSURE UNTIL FURTHER INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE, ESPECIALLY AS THE LOSSES OF £2.1M ARE NOT CONFINED ONLY TO THE WREXHAM PLANT BUT SHOW THE POSITION RELATED OVER THE THREE PLANTS INVOLVED IN THIS MANUFACTURING PROCESS.

REGARDS  
SYDNEY F. TONGUE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ATTN: SIR CHRISTOPHER HOGG, CHAIRMAN, COURTAULDS PLC

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LAST MONDAY, 22ND APRIL, THE LEADER OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL (COUNCILLOR T.M. WILLIAMS), THE MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT FOR THE AREA, (DR. JOHN MAREK) AND MYSELF MET DR. WOODING FOLLOWING YOUR ANNOUNCEMENT THAT YOU PROPOSED TO CEASE PRODUCTION OF DICEL ACETATE AT WREXHAM AND YOUR DEPUTY CHAIRMAN ASSURED US THAT NO FINAL DECISION WOULD BE MADE UNTIL WE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HAVE A FURTHER MEETING AT WHICH YOU WOULD BE PRESENT.

SINCE THAT MEETING, MR. GORDON CAMPBELL, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OF YOUR ACETATE DIVISION, VISITED MY OFFICE ON THURSDAY LAST AND GAVE US FURTHER FINANCIAL AND OTHER INFORMATION SHOWING THAT THE LOSSES IN THE ACETATE DIVISION RELATING TO ACETATE YARN WERE JUST OVER £2 MILLION, ALTHOUGH WE UNDERSTAND A PROFIT WAS MADE IN 1983. IT CLARIFIED ONE AREA INASMUCH THAT THE LOSSES WERE NOT NECESSARILY SUSTAINED AT THE WREXHAM PLANT BUT WOULD APPEAR TO BE CONTAINED WITHIN THE THREE FACTORIES CONCERNED WITH ACETATE MANUFACTURE.

THE LOSS OF 500 JOBS AT WREXHAM UNDOUBTEDLY WILL SAVE FAR MORE THAN THE £2 MILLION DEFICIT THAT YOU ARE LOOKING FOR AND I HAVE BEEN ASKED WHETHER YOU WOULD BE PREPARED TO CONSIDER THE ALTERNATIVE OF SAVING ANY MANPOWER BY MEANS OF VOLUNTARY REDUNDANCIES SPREAD OVER THE THREE EXISTING PLANTS, WHICH WOULD LEAVE THE WREXHAM FACTORY AVAILABLE FOR THE MAIN PRODUCTION OF DICEL YARN WITHIN THE REDUCED LIMITS YOU HAVE STIPULATED.

FURTHERMORE, I UNDERSTAND FROM THE WELSH OFFICE THAT GRANT AID IS AVAILABLE IF YOU WERE CONSIDERING MODERNISATION OF THE MACHINERY IN THE FACTORY, AND UNDOUBTEDLY THE CLWYD COUNTY COUNCIL AND OURSELVES WOULD ALSO BE ANXIOUS TO MITIGATE ANY FURTHER DIFFICULTIES THAT REMAIN.

MR. CAMPBELL PROMISED TO GIVE ME SIGHT OF OTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION THAT I ASKED FOR BUT UNDERSTANDABLY THIS HAS NOT YET COME TO HAND, BUT I AM AWARE THAT THERE IS CONSIDERABLE URGENCY IN THIS MATTER AND I DO NOT WISH A DECISION TO BE MADE CONFIRMING YOUR PROPOSALS BEFORE WE HAVE HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS WITH YOU AND YOUR SENIOR MANAGEMENT THE POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES.

LAST FRIDAY, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CLWYD COUNTY COUNCIL AND DELYN BOROUGH COUNCIL, WE MET THE PRIME MINISTER AND EXPLAINED THE SITUATION AT WREXHAM AND SHE WAS ONLY TOO AWARE OF THE TREMENDOUS IMPACT THE LOSS OF THESE 500 JOBS WILL HAVE AT WREXHAM, WHICH IS AN AREA THAT HAS BEEN STRUGGLING WITH HIGH UNEMPLOYMENT FOR MANY YEARS AND CURRENTLY OUR MALE UNEMPLOYMENT IS OVER 20%.

I SHOULD BE GRATEFUL IF THE SUGGESTIONS I HAVE MADE COULD BE INVESTIGATED IN THE HOPE THAT SAVINGS CAN BE SECURED AND THAT YOU WOULD CONSIDER RECOMMENDING THAT THE CLOSURE AT WREXHAM COULD BE AVERTED FOR THE TIME BEING AND NATURALLY, WE SHOULD BE PLEASED TO MEET YOU AT ANEARLY DATE AS ORIGINALLY PROMISED.

I TRUST YOU WILL HAVE NO OBJECTION TO THIS TELEX BEING MADE AVAILABLE TO THE COMMUNITY AND THE LOCAL PRESS, AND I AM SENDING COPIES TO THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WALES AND THE SUGGESTIONS CONTAINED IN THIS TELEX HAVE THE FULL BACKING OF THE BOROUGH COUNCIL AND THE FULL SUPPORT OF OUR MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT, DR. JOHN MAREK.

REGARDS  
SYDNEY F. TONGUE  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
WREXHAM MAELOR BOROUGH COUNCIL

ATTN: SIR CHRISTOPHER HOGG, CHAIRMAN, COURTAULDS PLC  
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