



HOUSE OF COMMONS
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Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher M.P.
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON
SW1

27 August 1985

Lilac Cottage
12 Lugar Street
COATBRIDGE
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Dear Prime Minister >

R29

As you are no doubt aware Sir Robert Haslam of B.S.C. has announced the projected closure of the Gartcosh Works in my constituency. The closure is planned to be completed by the 31st of March 1986 and taking into account a small number of associated positions at Ravenscraig over 700 jobs will be lost.

This figure does not of course include additional lost jobs in transportation, public services, small businesses etc, all of which would suggest that we can envisage the loss of about a thousand jobs in a very hard pressed community. The implications for Ravenscraig are obvious and I associate myself with the considerable representations which have been made to you about the future of that important plant.

However, my first concern as the local M.P. must be about the future of Gartcosh which at the moment has a death sentence hanging over it. The blow that such a closure would involve for this community cannot be underestimated. Coming on top of the recent closures of Cardowan and Bedley collieries, Speedwell, about which you were kind enough to meet me, and other redundancies, even the announcement of such a closure is knocking the heart out of our people and producing considerable anguish and despair.

As the local M.P. I would like to have the opportunity of having a discussion with you on this important matter and I shall make myself available at any time or place which you consider to be appropriate.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

TOM CLARKE