



From the Minister of State for Industry

DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY  
1-19 VICTORIA STREET  
LONDON SW1H 0ET

Telephone (Direct dialling) 01-215 5186  
GTN 215) .....  
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THE HON PETER MORRISON MP

T Brennan Esq  
Staunton Hotel  
13/15 Gower Street  
London  
WC1

15 January 1986

*T Brennan*

I am replying on behalf of the Prime Minister to your letter of 14 January on Gartcosh.

As you know, the Prime Minister is unable to see you. This does not mean that she does not understand the seriousness and urgency of the situation. It was for this very reason that she asked me to see you quickly so that I could take your views into account before responding to the report of the Scottish Select Committee. I also understand that Mr Rifkind was also willing to see you if you so wished.

In the event, I understand that you have decided to pursue your case through other channels. I am very disappointed that you have decided not to see me. I have seen a number of delegations including one led by Cllr McGarry of Strathclyde Regional Council, and others involving the national officers of the unions involved. It would have been useful to have spoken to the men from the mill as well. In view of your decision, I have had no option but to respond to the Select Committee today. While my response to the Committee is confidential to its members until published, you will wish to know that I am also answering two Parliamentary Questions today which will outline the Government's response.

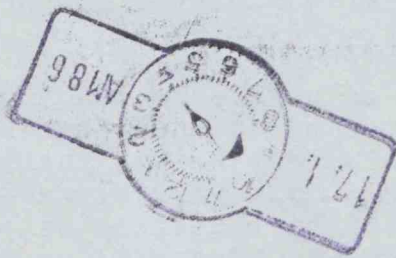
*Peter Morrison*

PETER MORRISON

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**86**  
BOARD OF TRADE  
BICENTENARY

PM 9/85

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*cfbb*

From the Minister of State for Industry

Private Secretary to  
THE HON PETER MORRISON MP

*NBRN.*

David Norgrove Esq  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

16 January 1986

*Dear David*

RAVENS CRAIG/GARTCOSH

Thank you for your letter of 14 January, enclosing one from Mr Brennan, the Ravenscraig shop stewards' convenor, to the Prime Minister. As agreed, Mr Morrison has now written to Mr Brennan and a copy of the letter is enclosed.

You will be aware that the Opposition intend to use half of their supply day next Thursday to debate the issue presumably on the basis of Mr Morrison's response to the Select Committee a copy of which is also attached. We trust that the debate will see the end of this particular problem. I am sending a copy of this letter and the enclosures to Andy Rinning (Scottish Office).

*Yours sincerely*  
*Malcolm Mchardy*  
MALCOLM MCHARDY

17  
19 **86**  
BOARD OF TRADE  
BICENTENARY



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 January, 1986.

**RAVENS CRAIG/GARTCOSH**

Mr. Morrison spoke to me after Prime Minister's Questions this afternoon to bring us up to date about the discussions with the Gartcosh managers and their unwillingness to see him.

The Prime Minister has today received a letter, attached, from Mr. Brennan asking again for a meeting with her. The Prime Minister cannot take this on, and Mr. Morrison agreed to reply on her behalf, again offering a meeting with himself, and also with the Secretary of State for Scotland.

I am sending a copy of this letter and its enclosure to Andy Rinning (Scottish Office).

(David Norgrove)

Malcolm McHardy, Esq.,  
Mr. Morrison's Office,  
Department of Trade and Industry.

JB

*Para 2 since  
in fact in Scotland  
sent 1/24 - Tommy's family (Robert)*

Staunton Hotel,  
13/15 Gower Street,  
LONDON.

14th January 1986.

Dear Prime Minister,

Representatives of steelworkers, major political parties and the churches of Scotland have walked from Gartcosh to London to meet you to convince you of the unarguable case for the retention of the Gartcosh finishing mill.

*Marklands  
Tom Usher*

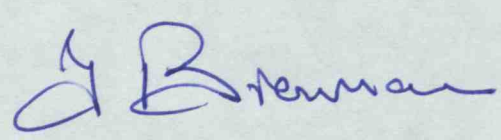
So far that meeting has been denied to us.

However the situation is so serious that we urgently request that such a meeting take place with as little delay as possible.

The seriousness is underlined by the fact that the marchers represent so many different shades of opinion in Scotland.

We are willing to remain in London until the 15th January and look forward to receiving a positive reply that you intend seeing us.

Yours sincerely,



Tommy Brennan.