



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 June 1985

VC
file
cc DES
DEM

Dear Mr. Toy

Thank you for your letter of 21 May about the Engineering and Technology programme and related matters.

I was pleased to learn how much your company is already doing to assist the work of higher education institutions in engineering and technology subjects and I am very grateful for your promises of additional assistance. That kind of support from you and your colleagues in industry is vital to the success of this programme.

I was particularly interested in your supportive comments about the role of the polytechnics in contributing to the national effort to produce the engineers and technologists which the country so urgently requires. We shall be including selected polytechnics, with good academic records and strong industrial links, in the second phase of the programme. We shall in particular be looking for strong polytechnic bids which complement the subject areas covered by other institutions in this programme. For example, we want to ensure, so far as possible, that this programme should include a significant number of production (including systems) engineering courses, to which you attached particular importance. We therefore hope to receive some strong polytechnic bids in this area.

The universities also of course have a crucial role within this programme in securing additional graduate output

skw

of the highest quality. We are committing programme funds to selected university courses only where we are confident, on the basis of advice from industry, that such courses will produce additional engineers and technologists of genuine value to employers.

I absolutely agree with you on the importance of "attitudes" to this whole question. Parents' attitudes are, of course, important in all this and the Government is striving to get the right message across. But there is more to be done, not only by the Government but also by industry itself. It is vital that young people (and of course their parents) should think of a career as a graduate engineer or technologist to be as attractive in terms of recognition, rewards and career prospects as other opportunities open to able young people within industry and commerce. As long as other professions, for example accountancy and merchant banking, are seen to lead to better rewarded careers and to higher status our efforts in this direction can have only partial success. I know that many in the engineering industry realise this and are doing everything they can to spread this message.

On the Youth Training Scheme, like you, I was appalled by the recent half day walk out by school children protesting at what the organisers of the action, the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign, claimed were Government plans to make the Scheme compulsory. This sort of politically motivated action does nothing to help youngsters gain the skills and experience they will need in tomorrow's labour market and shows just how little the extreme left wing of the trade union movement really cares about the future of our young people.

As you say, the Youth Training Scheme plays a very valuable role in helping young people negotiate the difficult transition from school to work. Department of Employment Ministers and I miss no opportunity to promote it and to explain its benefits and advantages to employers and

youngsters whenever and wherever we can. It is vital to our country's future as a major trading nation that we have a well trained, well motivated work force.

I know that Tom King is very keen to discuss the Youth Training Scheme with you and I understand that his office is now in touch with yours to arrange a date.

Warm regards,

Yours sincerely

Raymond Delton

Sam Toy, Esq.



R2
Rms.



BY APPOINTMENT TO
HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN
MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS
FORD MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED
BRENTWOOD ESSEX



BY APPOINTMENT TO
H.M. QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER
MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS
FORD MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED
BRENTWOOD ESSEX



BY APPOINTMENT TO
H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES
MOTOR VEHICLE MANUFACTURERS
FORD MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED
BRENTWOOD ESSEX

Ford Motor Company Limited

Sam Toy
Chairman and Managing Director

Brentwood Essex CM13 3BW
England

June 28, 1985

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Whitehall, SW1

MEM

Dear Madam

In Mr Toy's absence from the office at present, I wish to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of June 26, 1985, which will, of course, be shown to him on his return.

Yours faithfully

B. M. Stock

Secretary to
Sam Toy

bms



BF

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-934 9000

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

21 June 1985

Dear Mark,

You asked for a further draft of a reply
for the Prime Minister to send to Mr Sam
Toy of the Ford Motor Company. I attach same.

Yours ever,
I M Hughes

I M HUGHES
Private Secretary

- K2MB
1. Thank you for your letter of 21 May about the Engineering and Technology programme and related matters.
 2. I was pleased to learn how much your company is already doing to assist the work of higher education institutions in engineering and technology subjects. ^{and very} I am grateful for your promises of additional assistance. ^{That kind of} ~~of this kind:~~ such concrete support from you and your colleagues in industry is vital to the success of this programme.
 3. I was particularly interested in your supportive comments about the role of the polytechnics in contributing to the national effort to produce the engineers and technologists which the country so urgently requires. We shall ~~therefore~~ be including selected polytechnics, with good academic records and strong industrial links, in the second phase of the programme. We shall in particular be looking for strong polytechnic bids which complement the subject areas covered by other institutions in this programme. For example, we ^{was} ~~are concerned~~ to ensure, so far as possible, that this programme should include a significant ^{number} ~~quota~~ of production (including systems) engineering courses, to which you attached particular importance. We therefore hope to receive some strong polytechnic bids in this area.
 4. ^{of course} ~~That said,~~ the universities also ^{will} have a crucial role ⁱⁿ ~~in~~ ^{this programme} in securing additional graduate output of the highest quality. We are committing programme funds to selected university courses only where we are confident, on the basis of advice from industry, that such courses will produce additional engineers and technologists of genuine value to employers.
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career as a graduate engineer or technologist to be as attractive
in terms of ^{rewards} and career prospects as other opportunities
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long as other professions, for example accountancy and merchant
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in this direction can have only partial success. I know that
many in the engineering industry realise this and are ~~striving~~
to get the message across.

in message.

1st DENG carbide (see file)



DEMP are reding deir
but will wait wth DE.
I need to j DE on 10/6.

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

This is a totally
inadequate reply to
Sams very interesting
letter
re

Dear Mr. Toy

Thank you for your letter of 21 May about the Engineering and Technology programme and related matters. I am glad you share my feeling that we had a very useful meeting.

I was pleased to learn how much your company is already doing to help the work of higher education institutions in engineering and technology subjects and I am very grateful for your promises of additional assistance. That kind of support from industry is vital to the success of this programme.

The government agrees that the polytechnics can make a valuable contribution to the production of engineers and technologists which industry and the nation so urgently require. We have therefore announced that there will be scope for including selected polytechnics in the second phase of the Engineering and Technology programme. We do, however, also see a most important role for creating additional graduate output from universities in this programme in line with much of the advice we have received on this programme from industry and others.

I am looking forward to our follow-up meeting next year, which my office will be arranging in due course, when we can assess the progress which has been made.

I know that Tom King will be responding separately to your comments on the YTS. I certainly share your views on the importance of the scheme and I know that Tom is as concerned as you are about the way in which some have been misrepresenting it.

Yours sincerely

Nagendra Halder

Sam Toy, Esq.

LETTER FROM SAM TOY - CONTRIBUTION TO PM's REPLY

On the 7th,

Answer DSS

Like you I was appalled by the recent half day walk out by school children protesting at what the organisers of the action, the Youth Trade Union Rights Campaign, claimed were Government plans to make the Youth Training Scheme compulsory. This sort of politically motivated ~~act~~^{act} does nothing to help youngsters gain the skills and experience they will need in tomorrow's labour market and shows just how little the extreme left wing of the trade union movement really cares about the future of our young people.

As you say, the Youth Training Scheme plays a very valuable role in helping young people negotiate the difficult transition from school to work. Department of Employment Ministers and I miss no opportunity to promote it and to explain its benefits and advantages to employers and youngsters whenever and wherever we can. It is vital to our country's future as a major trading nation that we have a well trained, well motivated work force.

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CF pps.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

ELIZABETH HOUSE YORK ROAD LONDON SE1 7PH

TELEPHONE 01-934 9000

FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

Mark Addison Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
London SW1

5 June 1985

Dear Mark,

at Rep.

I am replying to your letters of 10 May, concerning Sir William Barlow's letter to the Prime Minister, and 23 May, concerning Mr Sam Toy's letter, both relating to the 'Switch'.

I attach draft replies for the Prime Minister's signature.

Yours ever,

I M HUGHES
Private Secretary



RECEIVED 28 MAY 1985

SSPS/12290/m

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 May 1985

Dear Elizabeth

I enclose a letter we have received from Mr. Sam Toy of the Ford Motor Company Limited, following the meeting the Prime Minister held on the Switch.

I should be grateful for your advice and for a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature by Wednesday 5 June.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Chris Snell (Department of Employment) whom you will wish to consult in your draft reply. Copies also go to Andrew Lansley (Department of Trade and Industry), Leigh Lewis (Minister without Portfolio's Office), John Graham (Scottish Office) and to Sir Robin Nicholson.

Y 2

Mark Addison

Mark Addison

1. Secs Clerk

YC for SSPS — urgent
please — to

2. Mr. Aitken

Miss E Hodkinson

Department of Education and Science.

DE would like the following

paragraph included in our response:

"I know that Tom King will be responding separately to your comments on the YTS. I share your views on the importance of the Scheme and I know that Tom is as concerned as you are about the way in which some have been misrepresenting it." 14/28/5



File

87

Ack 28/5

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 May 1985

I enclose a letter we have received from Mr. Sam Toy of the Ford Motor Company Limited, following the meeting the Prime Minister held on the Switch.

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Mark Addison

Miss E Hodkinson
Department of Education and Science.



FORD MOTOR COMPANY LIMITED, BRENTWOOD, ESSEX

Ford Motor Company Limited

Sam Toy
Chairman and Managing Director

Brentwood Essex CM13 3BW
England

21st May 1985

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Whitehall, SW1

Dear Prime Minister

Having just returned from the meeting with you, let me first add my thanks to those of my colleagues for giving us your time this morning to deal with the all-important subject of education and, in particular, the present frightening lack of technologically qualified (young) people.

Though my remarks this morning were "simplistic", they were intended to be so, particularly because my colleagues and I had agreed that we should address ourselves strictly to the questions raised in your letter of 19th March, rather than allow ourselves to roam over the minefield of potential criticisms of the educational system, having in mind the time that you and your colleagues could give us.

Having gone outside the brief indicated by your letter, however, a number of very valuable contributions were made. For myself and my Company I would again lay stress on the fact that the shortage of young technologists is a "now" problem and that if we are to rectify this as soon as possible then the Polytechnics are almost certainly best suited to come up with quick results, having in mind their greater flexibility than the established

... /2

21st May 1985

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister

Universities and their general tendency to more general scientific training than their University counterparts. All this of course, we would argue, must be paralleled by an improvement in the quality of the young people being admitted to the Polytechnics, and emphasis on a high standard of training within them. Of course, the "Double First" mathematicians are still needed, even in our own industry, but if we are to make the rapid progress we need to make in establishing the much higher levels of technologies in our engineering and manufacturing operations, then we need there to be a much larger pool of what we would call Systems Engineers right now, and I repeat, we believe these are best provided, as we have said, by complementing our already substantial intake of University graduates with many more young people trained in the "polys".

How it is decided to allocate the £43 million is relevant to all of the above in that it was the view of all of us at our pre-meeting discussion that the majority of it, if not all, should be devoted to this end.

All of the other issues touched on this morning were of course a vital piece of the total jigsaw and I would like to reaffirm that we already provide lecturers and visiting Professors to a number of Universities and Polytechnics, have established "Lecturer-ships"/Research Scholarships at Cranfield and Cambridge, supply very considerable quantities of equipment, etc, and funds across a wide spectrum of the academic field. One experiment which has proved extremely successful is that of our own engineers collaborating with Loughborough College in devising a training course, who are now contributing regularly with lectures etc, and results are already very gratifying.

Having said this, I am happy to join with Eddie Nixon in his remarks, confirming that we will work on the issue of giving even further assistance of the types mentioned.

21st May 1985

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister

One subject I did feel to be left relatively unexplored was that of "attitudes". Whilst we did talk in terms of visiting schools, undertaking Governorships, and even specifically sponsoring schools, it was the subject of parents' attitudes which I felt could have benefitted from further exploration.

I mention this particularly because of my experience of another subject on which you have made considerable progress over the past four or five years. I refer, of course, to your Youth Training Scheme initiative, and I make no apology for claiming that I have made this something of a personal crusade within my own Company, having realised from the outset its very considerable potential. Potential to train young people more adequately than has happened in the past to enter industry, both big and small, at the age of 18 or 19 and play a fuller part immediately, its potential contribution to reducing unemployment levels and, not least, because of its potential to enable youngsters to learn something of the needs for self-discipline, community service, etc.

To make my point, I was appalled just recently when certain Unions used a "school children's strike" to attack your latest YTS proposals, particularly when I asked my 15-year old stepson to tell me why his colleagues were joining in this charade. The reasons he gave me, and which his colleagues had given him for their taking part were, quite frankly, distortions of those elements of the Scheme which could possibly be regarded as negative, almost to the point of being lies, and of course none of the very considerable positives were mentioned at all! Again this is a subject on which I believe we (that is, industry and Government) need to do a much better job of telling the nation the full story. In fact, I would almost say that if the Youth Training Scheme does not make its full contribution to our society, then it will almost be by default on our part. I mention this because it could be that your current initiative could also be less successful than it warrants if we fail to make it very clear to parents, as well as schools, Polytechnics and Universities, that the actions being taken are all a part of the

21st May 1985

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher, MP
The Prime Minister

total strategy for Britain's recovery.

I am taking the liberty, Prime Minister, of sending a copy of this letter to your Secretary of State for Employment and I shall be asking him if he wishes me to talk to his Department on my references to the Youth Training Scheme, but I would like to feel that we could all give more thought to making a better job of disseminating proper and full knowledge of the points we discussed with you this morning, meaning the general public.

I am sorry for the length of this letter, but I felt I should write to you as I have done, if only to re-emphasise mine and my own Company's complete dedication to helping wherever possible.

Yours sincerely,

Sammy