



DE EERSTE MINISTER

PRIME MINISTER'S
PERSONAL MESSAGE
SERIAL No. T 40⁺/86

Brussels,

25-02-1986

R28

A4/AV2165

Prime Minister *

DKS

28/2

Dear Prime Minister,

I wish to refer to your message of 6 February, 1986, about the current discussions in the International Tin Council.

In my Government's view, it is of primary importance that all parties involved should first of all genuinely admit and consequently face their own responsibilities in the present crisis.

It would actually be misleading to forget the basic aims of the International Tin Agreements. The commitments of the consumer group within the ITC never implied an overall guarantee on their behalf allowing others to take advantage by ignoring, like most tin producers did, basic trends in supply and demand for tin, or by forsaking, like brokers and bankers, elementary managerial prudence in their dealings or their lendings.

Quite!

The solution to the crisis will be considered as a test case. Hence, it is of paramount importance that the scope and conditions of the contribution of EC member states to resolve the problem should not be misinterpreted and later misused.

This being said, the Belgian Government shall not fail to assess in due course the result of the on-going negotiations.

Yours sincerely,
Wilfried Martens

Wilfried MARTENS

The Rt Hon. Margaret THATCHER
Prime Minister

10 Downing Street

LONDON

TRADE

TIN

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25-02-1988

I also refer to your message of 6 February, 1988, about the current discussion in the International Tin Council.

In my Government's view, it is of primary importance that all parties involved should first of all voluntarily agree and consequently face their own responsibilities in the present crisis.

It would actually be misleading to forget the basic aims of the International Tin Agreement. The commitments of the consumer group within the ITA have never changed in overall substance or their intent. It is not possible to ignore the fact that the producers have a vested interest in the tin market and are therefore not in a position to make unilateral decisions on tin production in their own best interests.

The solution to the crisis will be considered as a test case. It is of paramount importance that the scope and conditions of the contribution of the producers to resolve the problem should not be misinterpreted and later abused.

This crisis and the tin market will not fall to rest in due course the result of the ongoing negotiations.

Yours faithfully,

The Rt Hon. Margaret Thatcher
Prime Minister

10 Downing Street

LONDON