



**City
of
Liverpool** R3D
CF 412

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express off.

Your ref

Our ref CX

Date 2nd February 1981

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

Dear Prime Minister,

In a letter which I wrote to you last Friday, January 30th, on the instructions of the Liverpool City Council, I outlined the Council's serious concern and alarm on hearing of the decision to close the Tate and Lyle Refinery in Liverpool. My purpose in writing this further letter is to say that at the City Council's invitation a conference was convened urgently in Liverpool this morning in order to assess the responses which have so far been received from the Company itself and from relevant Government Departments and to plan how best to proceed in the light of those responses.

This morning's conference was broadly representative of all who are concerned locally with the situation which we face. There were political representatives from all the Merseyside District Councils, the Leader of the Merseyside County Council, Members of the European Parliament and of the Westminster Parliament, the Archbishop of Liverpool and the Bishop of Liverpool, the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company and representatives of the Trade Unions concerned both from the Refinery and from the North West T.U.C.

As a result of the conference I have been instructed to ask you to receive a broadly based delegation of some twelve to fifteen people - political representatives from the City Council, the County Council, and representatives of the Liverpool M.P.s at Westminster and in the European Parliament would be joined by the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Bishop of Liverpool, representatives of the Trade Unions, the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company and the Chamber of Commerce. The delegation would wish to explore further with you a number of aspects of the situation which has resulted in the Company taking the decision to close the Liverpool Refinery and to identify if at all possible what changes can be introduced into the situation to enable that decision to be changed. The delegation would in particular wish to take up:-

- (a) the relationship between the overall market for refined sugar in this country and the beet sugar quotas which have been agreed by the Government;
and

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- (b) the obligation which we understand is an integral part of the agreement between the EEC and the ACP countries for the import into the EEC of a given amount of cane sugar for refining. It appears that with the closure of the Liverpool Refinery it may only be possible to discharge this obligation by diverting cane sugar from Britain to other refineries on the Continent to the detriment of the British interest.

In my letter last Friday I sought an opportunity for representatives of the Liverpool City Council to meet you and to develop this matter with you. The City Council would wish, in view of the conference which I have now described, to take part in this more broadly based approach to you rather than to seek a separate appointment. You will I know appreciate something of the urgency which lies behind this approach. The redundancy notices served upon Tate and Lyle's employees have already begun to run their course and it is very much hoped that you will be able to receive a delegation such as the one I have described in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

A. Stocks

Chief Executive