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or Press  
NAFF

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

16 February, 1981

Dear Sir Trevor,

Thank you for your letter of 11 February.

I have asked Peter Walker, as the responsible Minister, to see all the delegations from the Liverpool area who have sought discussions about the closure of the Liverpool Refinery. He has already seen Merseyside MPs and will be seeing Council authorities and other interests on 17 February and is keeping me very closely informed.

I note your point about the UK beet quota. I understand that Tate and Lyle have suggested that it should be cut from 1.326 million tonnes to 936 million tonnes rather than the 1.15 million tonnes the Government has already said it would accept.

This is well below the British Sugar Corporation capacity of about 1.3 million tonnes and it is hard to see how such a cut could be made without closures of beet factories. But this is a point which you will no doubt wish to pursue in greater detail with Peter Walker.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

Sir Trevor Jones, J.P.

RH