

please pass to Mr. Howe

(F) SCA A Conference

MR. GOW

cc: Miss Stephens

As you know, Tam Dalyell wrote to the Prime Minister yesterday when his Question was not reached.

His letter, which he has released to the press, conveys an invitation on behalf of Mr. Alec Kitson of the TGWU, Chairman of the Board of Governors of Motec, and Mr. Dalyell himself for the Prime Minister to visit Motec. He specifically suggests that this might be possible at the time of the Prime Minister's visit to the Scottish Conservative Conference in May.

The only factor in favour of accepting this invitation seems to me to be the Prime Minister's regard for Mr. Dalyell. Everything else - the personality and allegiances of Mr. Kitson, the possibility of Motec being scheduled for closure, and the prospect of the visit attracting demonstrations associated with Bathgate, to name but a few - seem to me to point to a polite refusal, on programme grounds, coupled with the expressions of regard for Mr. Dalyell and his efforts which would have been given in the Prime Minister's reply yesterday.

Do you agree?

M. A. PATTISON

19 March 1982