

MR LANKESTER
PRIME MINISTER

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You will remember that last year Lord Matthews invited you to attend the annual lunch of the Export Group for the Constructional Industries at the Savoy and you were not able to accept. He has now asked for 1981, for a date in November - a Monday or Wednesday. I have explained to his Office that you do not take on more than two major speeches a month and that you already have the Lord Mayor's Banquet and an overseas trip (European Council to be held in London) and that I was not that optimistic.

I have taken advice from Environment who say that were you to accept, it would give the construction industry a tremendous boost. But you should know that last year they were addressed by an FCO Minister and the year before by Lord Limerick and John Stanley's personal advice is that, whilst they could gain a great deal from your attending their lunch, there really is nothing in it for you.

Is this something you would like to consider? You will remember that you are committed to making a major speech on industry to the Engineering Employers Federation in February 1982.

E.J.

*I shall have to do it -
I gave a half-promise to
Vider Matthews last year.
mt*

15 January 1981

M O I L O I T