

cc DOI

Prime Minister

5



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

21 January 1982

Dear Mr. Gregory,

Thank you for your letter of 29 December 1981 about the Coventry/Warwickshire Sub-Region's submission to Government Departments and the question of Japanese trade competition.

I know that Norman Lamont has told Iain Mills that he will be happy to see a deputation from the area and that arrangements are in hand. I think it would therefore make sense for all the issues which concern you - including the question of trade with Japan - to be aired on that occasion.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Hunt

Terence Gregory, Esq., O.B.E.

HL



DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY
ASHDOWN HOUSE
123 VICTORIA STREET
LONDON SW1E 6RB

TELEPHONE DIRECT LINE 01-212 3301
SWITCHBOARD 01-212 7676

Secretary of State for Industry

20 January 1982

Mike Pattison Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Tym to PM

MAJ.

Dear Mike

Your letter of 4 January sought a draft reply for the Prime Minister to send in response to the letter of 29 December from the Chief Executive of Coventry City Council about various issues of local importance.

2 I have delayed replying while we resolved a related issue. At the request of the Coventry local authorities and other bodies, Iain Mills MP has asked to bring a deputation to discuss with Mr Lamont the case referred to in the letter and his response to it. Mr Lamont has now agreed and a meeting will be arranged in due course. In the circumstances I suggest that all the matters raised in the Chief Executive's letter - including that of Japanese imports - be referred to that meeting and that no substantive reply be offered at this stage. I attach an appropriate draft for the Prime Minister's signature.

Yours ever

Richard

RICHARD RILEY
Private Secretary

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO:

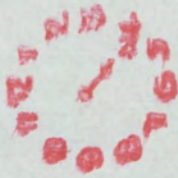
T Gregory Esq OBE
Chief Executive and Town Clerk
Coventry City Council
Council House
COVENTRY

Thank you for your letter of 29 December 1981 about the Coventry/Warwickshire Sub-Region's submission to Government Departments and the question of Japanese trade competition.

I know that Norman Lamont has told Iain Mills that he will be happy to see a deputation from the area and that arrangements are in hand. I think it would therefore make sense for all the issues which concern you - including the question of trade with Japan - to be aired on that occasion.

LETTERS FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO MEMBERS

20 JAN 1962



The Secretary
Chief Executive and Town Clerk
Governing Body Council
Council House
GOVERNMENT

Thank you for your letter of 29 December 1961 about the Government's
and Region's submission to Government departments and the question of
trade commission.

I know that Norman Lamont has told John White that he will be happy to see a
discussion from the area and that arrangements are in hand. I think it would
therefore be good for all the issues which concern you - including the question
of trade with Japan - to be raised on that occasion.

FILE

DM

VLB

cc D/T
Press office

4 January 1982

I enclose a letter to the Prime Minister from the Chief Executive of Coventry. Mr. Gregory reports that further representations about the economic position in the Coventry area are to be made to Industry Ministers shortly, and also urges action on the current levels of imports of Japanese cars and machine tools.

B/K. I should be grateful if you could let me have a draft reply for the Prime Minister's signature by 18 January, consulting the Department of Trade as necessary.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Jonathan Rees (Department of Trade). Mr. Gregory's letter was copied to his Secretary of State.

M A PATTISON

CS

I. K. C. Ellison, Esq.,
Department of Industry.

4 January 1982

I am writing on behalf of the Prime Minister to thank you for your letter of 29 December.

This is receiving attention, and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

M A PATTISON

Terence Gregory, Esq., O.B.E.



CITY OF COVENTRY

CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK

My reference : TG
Phone extension : 2020
Your reference :
Enquiries to :
Date : 29th December, 1981

Terence Gregory, OBE,
Chief Executive and Town Clerk,
Council House,
COVENTRY, CV1 5RR
Telephone 0203 25555 : Telex 31469

The Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON.

R21

Dear Prime Minister,

You will recall that in June this year you met Mr. Geoffrey Robinson, M.P. for Coventry North West, to discuss the deteriorating economic position in the Coventry/Warwickshire Sub-region. You subsequently stated that "Members of Coventry and the other authorities will wish to put a detailed case to Ministers. I am sure if you were to seek a meeting with Norman Tebbit (then a Minister in the Department of Industry) at that stage, he would be happy to receive a delegation."

22/6/81.

PPS

PP

The Sub-region (represented by Warwickshire County Council, West Midlands County Council, Coventry City Council and Coventry Chamber of Commerce and Industry) submitted its detailed case to various Government Departments and the European Commission in August, and a number of replies have been received since then. The replies from the Government Departments regrettably indicated that no significant changes in policy towards the area are envisaged (although one or two Departments have indicated that they will bear the Sub-region's needs in mind when allocating finance under existing policies).

Representatives of the above Sub-regional organisations have now met to consider with the local Members of Parliament the responses to the submission, and to decide on further action. The response from the Department of Industry was considered particularly disappointing, and a meeting will now be sought with an appropriate Department of Industry Minister to discuss the speed of change in local traditional industries and the criteria used to determine Assisted Area status.

During consideration of the responses, one other matter was raised which it was felt should be drawn to your urgent attention. The Sub-region is very concerned at the damage being done to local industry by the high level of imports from Japan of cars and machine tools. Many jobs have already disappeared, and many more are at risk, while the opportunities for exporting to Japan are severely and unfairly restricted. The Sub-region would therefore wish to see tighter restrictions placed on the imports of these goods from Japan, to help local industry deal with the unfair competition. It is hoped that you will consider this matter sympathetically and initiate the necessary action.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Trade for his information.

Yours sincerely,

Terence Gregory

Chief Executive & Town Clerk

KD