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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

15 December 1982

Dear Mr. Craigie.

When we discussed the closure of Metal Box's Glasgow factory with you on 30 November Alex Fletcher undertook to explore with the company whether it had plans for new investment in small can production and if so whether such investment could be attracted to Glasgow. He also agreed to examine the possibility of extending Scottish Office assistance to the Maryhill Corridor project.

I explained at the end of our meeting that I did not want to raise any false hopes about these possibilities. I understand that the company has told the Scottish Office that it has no current plans to establish a new plant in the UK. You are aware that the possibility of producing small-sized cans at the Glasgow premises was examined by the company, but I understand it was ruled out on the grounds that even with generous Government financial assistance the project would not have been viable. If Metal Box does consider manufacturing the 15/25 cl can some time in the future the company is convinced that this could be accommodated simply by installing additional lines at one of its more up-to-date plants.

The continuation of the Maryhill Corridor Project, which you mentioned at our meeting, is essentially a matter for Strathclyde Regional Council and Glasgow District Council. The support which the Scottish Office has given through the urban programme towards the salary of the Project Co-ordinator has always been understood to be of a temporary nature and is being tapered off under normal arrangements, but it will not end until November 1983. Whatever the local authorities decide to do about this particular post, however, urban programme resources will still be available for projects to

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tackle deprivation in Maryhill. I understand that a number of worthwhile projects in the area have benefited from urban programme support in recent years.

Yours sincerely
Raymond Sholton

James Craigen, Esq., M.P.,



SCOTTISH OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AU

W F S Rickett Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON

14 December 1982

Dear Willie, ✓ *pl type* *W* *14/12*

You wrote to me on 1 December about the meeting the Prime Minister and Mr Fletcher had with Mr Jim Craigen MP on 30 November in connection with the closure of the Metal Box factory in Glasgow.

You asked for a draft the Prime Minister could use informing Mr Craigen of the outcome of the investigations Mr Fletcher had undertaken and this is enclosed.

Your sincerely

John Wilson

JOHN S WILSON
Private Secretary

DRAFT FOR PRIME MINISTER

J M Craigen Esq MP
House of Commons
LONDON
SW1A 0AA

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