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Secretary of State for Industry

2 February 1981

Tim Lankester Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
SW1

[Handwritten initials]

Dear Tim

Thank you for your letter of 23 January with which you enclosed a copy of the letter of the same date from Sir John Buckley.

... 2 You asked for a draft reply and that is enclosed.

Yours ever

[Handwritten signature]

RICHARD RILEY
Private Secretary



DRAFT REPLY FROM THE PRIME MINISTER TO THE LETTER OF 23RD
JANUARY 1981 FROM SIR JOHN BUCKLEY

Thank you for your letter of 23rd January from which I was pleased to learn of your optimism about a successful conclusion to Davy's pursuit of the Paradip Steelworks contract in India. // My colleagues and I are conscious of the role that Government can play in diplomatic, ministerial and financial support of UK companies and of their winning such major contracts in the developing world. Davy's recent success in winning the rolling mills contract at Nador in Morocco clearly points to the success of this combined approach to such contracts.

While the Office of Fair Trading is considering the recommendations that it will make about the possible reference of the Enserch bid to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, it would not be appropriate for me to comment on that matter. I can, however, assure you that full consideration is being, and will be, given to all relevant factors, including the possible impacts on this country's future ability to win major project contracts overseas. ~~In that context I was interested to have your views.~~