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PS/ *Secretary of State for Industry*

25 July 1980

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

Dear Tim

NEB

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23/77

NEB RELATIONS WITH THE TUC

Sir Arthur Knight's private secretary has rung me at Sir Arthur's request to say that Mr Len Murray of the TUC has contacted Sir Arthur to invite him to a private lunch at Congress House. The lunch is likely to be in mid August and the TUC is likely to be represented by Mr Murray, Mr Basnett and Mr Lee.

2 Sir Arthur Knight wished to stress that the invitation was a private one but he thought that my Secretary of State ought to know that it had been issued. Sir Arthur thinks it possible that the TUC may broach the idea of the TUC again being represented on the NEB. Sir Arthur understands that the Government has reserved places on the NEB for TUC representatives, but he himself has reservations about the idea; he thinks that the presence of TUC representatives might inhibit private sector companies from participating in such ventures as the recently announced biotechnology company.

3 I am copying this letter to Richard Dykes (Employment).

Yours ever

Ian Ellison

I K C ELLISON
Private Secretary

28 JUL 1980



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I K C Ellison Esq
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Handwritten scribble

29 July 1980

Dear Ian,

NEB RELATIONS WITH THE TUC

You copied to me your letter of 25 July to Tim Lankester about the TUC's informal approach to Sir Arthur Knight.

As your Secretary of State knows, Mr Prior believes that there is much to be gained by again having representatives of the TUC on the NEB when it is possible to do so. He is not aware of the grounds for Sir Arthur's concerns that TUC representation might inhibit the participation of private sector companies in certain ventures or that such inhibitions have been evident in the past.

Sir Arthur's views will have to be considered carefully, but it is clearly important that he does not appear in any way to rule out the return of TUC representatives to the NEB in his informal discussions with the TUC. You might think it right to register this point with his private secretary.

I am copying this letter to Tim Lankester.

Yours ever
Richard Dykes

RICHARD DYKES
Principal Private Secretary