

Imperial Chemical Industries PLC

from
J. H. Harvey-Jones, MBE
Chairman

Imperial Chemical House
Millbank London SW1P 3JF
Telephone 01-834 4444

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher PC MP
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

PS
Top copy on
an Appointments
file.

5 July 1983

Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 30 June. I have now consulted my colleagues and we are of course anxious to help you and your Government and will do our best to make Sir Robin Ibbs available for the task you have in mind.

The number of Executive Directors on the ICI Board has been considerably reduced and we cannot now readily produce alternative cover for his current ICI duties. He will, therefore, unavoidably be absent overseas on a number of occasions during the year. I hope this will be acceptable at least until we see how things work out.

May I suggest that we carry out a trial appointment of 12 months to see whether the time that he is available is adequate for your purposes, and review the situation then to see whether any adjustments need to be made. I should add that, given the scope for flexibility indicated in your letter, Sir Robin himself has no doubts of his ability to cope and, knowing his capacity for work, he probably will be able to do so.

Yours sincerely

John Harvey-Jones