



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Dear Willie

It was good of you to write to let me have your views about the future Chairmanship of the British Steel Corporation.

Ian MacGregor has, indeed, been an enormous success there; and under his Chairmanship Mr. Scholey has, I know, impressed many people with his ability and grasp of the job.

We are still thinking about the top management structure at BSC and about who will be the best people for these jobs. Your letter is a useful contribution to these deliberations - *thank you.*

Jo. writing - it is a great help.

Yours sincerely
Raymond

The Viscount Weir

Nat Ind Steel
tpn



Mr Scholar

NATI. IND.

PA

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

18.3.87

Dear Jonathan,

, for information:

I enclose [copy of an

exchange of letters between the PM and

Viscount Weir about the BSC Chairmanship.

I would be grateful if you would not

circulate outside your private office or

photocopy.

Yours ever,

Michael Scholar

Dr Jonathan Spencer

Secretary of State for Industry's Office

FROM

VISCOUNT WEIR

Telephone: 041-637 7111

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GLASGOW, G44 4EX.

Personal

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
10 Downing Street,
Westminster,
London, SW1.

11th March, 1983

R14

Dear Margaret,

B.S.C.

You must be besieged by advice on the B.S.C. - and particularly its chairmanship - so I hope you will forgive me adding to the total. I have a long connection with the B.S.C. having been a main Board Member from 1972/76, in days when it even managed an occasional profit. I resigned in 1976 because I totally disagreed with the appointment of Charles Villiers as Chairman.

In more recent times, my connection has continued, as being one of the two nominees of Lazards to the Committee to decide Ian MacGregor's compensation. Ian I have known very well for many years.

During my time on the Board I had plenty of opportunity of seeing Bob Scholey in action and I was continually impressed by his ability and grasp of his job. The Corporation got into an awful state under Charles Villiers but I know that during that period Scholey was one man who did everything he could to try and see that common sense prevailed and to hold the show together.

Beyond that, he is certainly the person who

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Personal

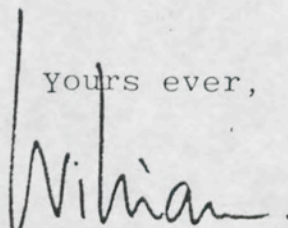
has the confidence of the management and I do believe must be the best person to succeed Ian.

It also occurs to me that if Scholey were to be passed over yet again, it is perfectly possible that some private sector firm might take the opportunity of offering him a job. Certainly, there are plenty of people in manufacturing who have a lot of time for him.

I really believe that if that were to happen - far-fetched as it may sound - then the Corporation would be in a really bad way if it were to lose both Ian and Scholey.

I hope you do not mind my butting in with this contribution. I feel quite strongly about it, however, and do hope that what I have said is of some help.

Yours ever,


William Weir.