

Northern
Ireland
Development
Agency

19 July 1978

The Rt Hon Roy Mason
The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland
Stormont Castle
BELFAST
BT4 3ST

Dear Secretary of State

I am somewhat disturbed to learn last night that the De Lorean Motor Car project has now been referred, by yourself, to a Cabinet Committee. I am further disturbed to have had this information second-hand and, as Deputy Chairman of NIDA, I have played a leading role in negotiations regarding the project and, in particular, have kept a close liaison with the Department of Commerce in as much that a joint party, representing NIDA and the DOC, recently travelled to the United States to clarify some of the points at issue.

The results of the joint deputation have substantially improved the original terms although I do not, at the same time, minimise the high risk involved.


You will recall, during our conversation at Hillsborough Castle, you stressed to me the importance of securing the project as this would be a great psychological boost to Northern Ireland. Your statement then is even more relevant in the light of the latest unemployment figures published for Northern Ireland.

I would also refer to two extracts of the Quigley Report and I admit that they are out of context but they are relevant to the project under consideration. The two extracts are as follows:

- 1 If the private sector is holding back because it reckons the risk of investment at that juncture too high, it follows that the State, in deciding to proceed, is prepared to accept a higher risk factor.
- 2 If the Community wills the end for higher and more stable employment, it must also will the means and the element of risk which that entails.

In view of the foregoing, I would respectfully urge you, Secretary of State, to use your best endeavours for a quick and favourable decision from the Cabinet Committee.

Yours sincerely


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