

MUFAX

TO

MR KIDDO

DR QUIGLEY

MR WE BELL

NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE

FROM

JOE PILLING

GREAT GEORGE STREET,

LONDON SW1P 3AJ



SECRETARY OF STATE  
FOR  
NORTHERN IRELAND

13 July 1978

The Rt Hon Joel Barnett, MP  
Chief Secretary  
HM Treasury  
Parliament Street  
Whitehall SW1

*Dear Chief Secretary,*

DE LOREAN PROJECT

Since I wrote to you on 11 July consideration of the project has advanced quickly. Executives of the company have been in Belfast this week and have been looking in detail at the proposed West Belfast site. The outcome of this is that the site does not meet their requirements in its present form, and if this is to be overcome, and the project to proceed, further site works will be necessary at a cost to the Department of Commerce of about £5 million. This of course adds some £2500 to the cost per job calculation, taking it that much further above the maximum. (But as I am sure you appreciate there are circumstances in which the need to resolve deep seated social problems must be set alongside the economic factors in deciding what is reasonable in particular cases).

Clearly you need to know about this. The other factors in the situation have not changed; NIDA, with my approval, are ready to go ahead, and I remain satisfied that the project represents a justifiable risk, particularly in view of its extreme importance to the Government's whole position in Northern Ireland.

In view of the importance of the point about countervailing doctrine in the United States I am copying this and my earlier letter to Edmund Dell, as well as copying this to the other recipients of that letter.

*Yours sincerely,*

*J.Pilling*

*(on behalf of)*

R J MASON.

Copies to be sent to:

All members of IN  
Sir John Hunt  
Secretary of State for Trade

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