

SHORTS

Sir Philip Foreman CBE DL
Chairman & Managing Director

21 August 1986

TO: All Shorts' Employees

The worldwide publicity given to intimidation in Shorts brings home to all of us the importance of keeping such threats out of the factory. The publicity has followed from the theft of some clock cards and the appearance of posters in the factory alleging that these clock cards belonged to IRA sympathisers. The Company views such sectarian intimidation as a very sinister development and has asked the CID to carry out a full investigation, which will be pursued energetically and thoroughly. If you have any information which you think would help in this investigation, you should contact the police or ring the Confidential Telephone (Belfast 652155).

Shorts today has 7,000 employees and is, by some margin, the largest manufacturing company in Northern Ireland. It is vital for all of us in the Company, and for the whole Province, that we not only maintain our present business but develop further into the future. We must realise that intimidation puts all of our jobs at risk, as no customer will want to place orders with a company in which sectarian threats are a feature. I therefore wish to make it clear that in the interests of everyone this Company is absolutely committed to providing equality of opportunity in employment for all, with no favours one way or the other to either section of the community, and to maintaining in the factory an atmosphere free from intimidation and threats. I am sure that the vast majority of Shorts' workers support this.

As part of our efforts to ensure that the policy is applied I have today issued an instruction that any remaining flags, bunting, political posters or emblems must be removed forthwith and must not be replaced. Anyone refusing to take them down or found putting them up in future will be disciplined. I am well aware of the strong feelings which some people have on current political issues, but the Company's future and all of our jobs are at risk if we permit the factory to become a political campaigning ground or if we allow any worker to be intimidated for his religious or political beliefs.

IT IS VITAL FOR THE FUTURE OF SHORTS THAT WE KEEP POLITICS AND SECTARIANISM OUT OF THE WORKPLACE.

P. J. Foreman

SHORT BROTHERS PLC
PO Box 241 Airport Road Belfast BT3 9DZ Northern Ireland
Telephone 0232 58444 Telex 74688 Cables Aircraft Belfast
Registered in Northern Ireland: Certificate NI 1062
Registered Office: Airport Road Belfast Northern Ireland

