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10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

13 March 1989

Dear Mr. Olsen,

Thank you for your letter of 24 February in which you confirmed your involvement in the management employee buy-out of Harland & Wolff.

I am encouraged by your commitment and the enthusiasm and managerial strength you would bring to bear in establishing a long-term viable future for the Yard.

May I take this opportunity to assure you of the Government's interest in achieving a successful return of the Yard to the private sector.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Mr. Fred Olsen

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY



NORTHERN IRELAND OFFICE  
WHITEHALL  
LONDON SW1A 2AZ

Andrew Turnbull Esq  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

March 1989

**HARLAND & WOLFF: LETTER FROM FRED OLSEN TO PRIME MINISTER**

Mr Fred Olsen wrote to the Prime Minister on 24 February, with a copy to the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, to confirm his commitment to the proposed management employee buy out of Harland & Wolff. The Prime Minister is aware of Mr Olsen's background and of his involvement in this proposal.

Negotiations are continuing between Department of Economic Development officials and the MEBO team, led by John Parker, Chairman and Chief Executive of Harland & Wolff. An acquisition would be based on an initial order for three ships from the Olsen Group. The equity and management participation of Mr Olsen strengthens the MEBO proposal, and is to be welcomed.

A draft, reply for the Prime Minister is attached.

STEPHEN POPE

SHG/PROL/5281

~~DRAFT~~ REPLY FROM PRIME MINISTER TO MR OLSEN

Fred Olsen Esq  
Fred Olsens Gate 2  
Oslo 1  
Norway

GR.

R. G. Mc for P.M.

P.

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SHG/PROL/5282



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Fred OLSEN

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

NO ACK/ 1 March 1989

You will already have seen a copy of Mr Fred Olsen's letter of 24 February to the Prime Minister about Harland and Wolff (enclosed). I should be grateful if, in the light of tomorrow's discussion at E(A), you could let me have an early draft reply for the Prime Minister to send. It would be helpful to have this by Monday 6 March.

PAUL GRAY

Stephen Leach, Esq.  
Northern Ireland Office

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