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Sir **HORACE CUTLER, O.B.E.**

LEADER OF THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL

THE COUNTY HALL, SE1 7PB

Telephone 01-633 3304/2184

4 July 1979.

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Margaret,

FUTURE OF ILEA

I have written to Mark Carlisle about the (as imminent as possible) demise of ILEA, since we are in danger of running out of time. I do hope that this is a case in which unanimously agreed party policy does not defer to Whitehall, vested interests or pressure groups.

That there will be difficulties is accepted, but if ever an organisation was in need of the treatment from a radical and reforming Government ILEA is it!

With best wishes

Yours ever

Horace.

From:

Sir **HORACE CUTLER, O.B.E.**
LEADER OF THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL
THE COUNTY HALL, SE1 7PB
Telephone 01-633 3304/2184

4 July 1979.

Rt. Hon. Mark Carlisle, M.P.,
Secretary of State for Education,
Department of Education and Science,
Elizabeth House,
York Road,
London, SE1 7PH.

FUTURE OF ILEA

A year or so before the 1977 GLC election agreement was reached to abolish the ILEA. There was total accord between the GLC/ILEA group, the boroughs and the Parliamentary spokesman (Norman St. John Stevas) and this was confirmed by the Shadow Cabinet. Abolition is therefore party policy.

The only reservations were on the timing (being then in front of a GLC election) and on what would replace ILEA.

The time is now ripe; in fact, if steps are not taken very shortly the time will have passed for good. We have been markedly successful in dismantling one Socialist empire in London, namely housing, and we are looking forward to doing the same with ILEA while we have the chance.

We have no firm views on a replacement system, but since each outer borough copes the only problem is likely to be finance. It might be desirable to retain ILEA's non-school organisation, or even to extend it London-wide.

I am therefore asking you to put in hand the necessary political and administrative measures. The precise timing is a matter of detail, but there must be a legislative fait accompli by early 1981, even if the organisational changes have not by then taken place - and please, no Royal Commissions!

As a matter of courtesy I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister but to nobody else. I will, however, be informing my colleagues.