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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

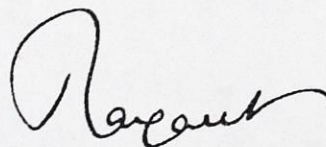
1 June 1979

Dear Horace.

Thank you for your letter of 22 May about Civil Service dispersal from London.

I can assure you that we are having a fresh look at the dispersal programme as a matter of urgency. I am sure you will appreciate that at present I cannot say more than this, but an announcement about how we are proposing to proceed will be made to Parliament as soon as it reassembles after the recess.

Yours ever



Horace Cutler, Esq., OBE.

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

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22 May 1979.

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

Dear Margaret;

You will remember that one of the matters we discussed some time ago was the question of dispersal of some Civil Service Departments from London following the Hardman Report.

We were requested not to make a fuss at that time and to await the announcement from Barney Hayhoe. This he did in the House of Commons-Report in Hansard on 15 January last Col. 1142 and 1443.

When I saw Michael yesterday he told me that this was a matter for Christopher Soames, but unfortunately it does not as yet appear to have been picked up, although a welcome statement has been made as to the freeze on civil service recruitment. Surely in this context the further implementation of Hardman must be delayed and my understanding is that in the absence of any announcement arrangements for the movement of civil servants out of London are still going ahead. I have been under pressure from several sources as to the exact position, having given my undertaking on behalf of our colleagues in opposition that immediate steps would be implemented.

Can you help please?

With best wishes

Yours
Horace.