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CDM

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 August 1980

Together with Jim Prior and Keith Joseph I was delighted to see you and your colleagues on 7 July and to have the opportunity to discuss with you the whole problem of youth unemployment and the potential role for voluntary organisations like CSV in helping to deal with it.

Jim Prior wants to involve voluntary organisations as much as possible in alleviating the problems of the unemployed. He is now looking at some of the ideas which you put forward at your meeting with me. Insofar as the Youth Opportunities Programme is concerned I know that the MSC will want to discuss with you the scale of CSV provision under that programme, notably the very successful Springboard schemes. I know that the MSC are interested in the Service Away From Home scheme and want to see it succeed but they will want to see the results of the current evaluation before deciding whether or not to continue to fund it in its present form.

Apart from these specific schemes, it is too early to comment in detail on the various proposals CSV has put forward, but I can assure you that these are most helpful as Ministers consider how the voluntary sector can play a greater part in helping the young unemployed. I understand that Jim Lester and Lord Gowrie made this point at their meeting with Mrs Hoodless and others from CSV on 17 July.

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A number of individual government departments contribute to specific CSV projects relevant to their responsibilities. If you have proposals for further work which relate specifically to the fields of interest of individual departments, please feel free to approach them direct.

I am most grateful for the interest you have shown and for your constructive suggestions. It is particularly helpful that you should have come forward with these now since, as I have said, the Government is in the process of examining these issues and will be able to take your views fully into account.

(SGD) MARGARET THATCHER

Dr. Alec Dickson.

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