



Mr Hoskyns

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Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG
01-233 3000

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23.10.79

PRIME MINISTER

and

ENTERPRISE ZONES

In my minute of ~~21~~ September, I proposed to circulate to colleagues the draft of a statement in very general terms on Enterprise Zones to be made at the Party Conference. You doubted whether it would be possible to do this before the concept of Enterprise Zones had been discussed in E Committee. I trust the meeting of E Committee on 23 October will give us an opportunity to consider the concept itself, and, if it is accepted, to decide on the next steps to be taken. I shall shortly be circulating a paper.

2. Peter Walker wrote to me on 26 September suggesting that we should try to avoid green-field sites suitable for agricultural purposes. I have sympathy with his point of view. I originally proposed Enterprise Zones as a means of overcoming urban dereliction. But I take the point in Tom King's minute to you of 3 October about the advantages of green-field sites in terms of saving public expenditure on reclamation or infrastructure. I would suggest to colleagues that we try hard to find sites within urban areas which would offer opportunities for a significant amount of development within a reasonable timetable and at relatively little cost to the public sector. I agree, however, that we should not at this stage rule out of consideration the possibility of selecting some locations which could be easier to develop. This is, however, a point which we can discuss in E Committee.

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3. I am copying this minute to members of E Committee, the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the Minister of Transport and Sir John Hunt.

Mark Hall

[G.H.]

15 October 1979

[Approved by the Chancellor of the Exchequer and signed in his absence]

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