



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Cc Press Office

cc16  
✓ 1311

R13  
12 January 1981

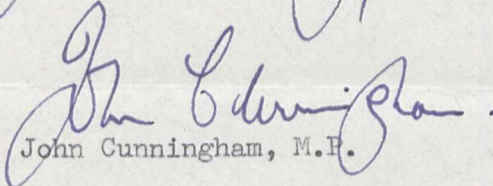
Dear Prime Minister,

I understand that Ministers have been discussing a proposal to appoint a Minister for the North.

As you know there is considerable and widespread dis-satisfaction in the Northern Region with Government policy towards Industry and Employment. Regional Policy has been eroded, unemployment is rising dramatically throughout the Region and these trends seem likely to continue.

The Northern Group of Labour M.P.s have been pressing the Secretary of State for Industry to create a Northern Development Agency. Keith Joseph has considered this proposal but made no final decision. At no time have we been told of any counter proposal to create a Minister for the North.

I am writing to ask whether consideration of this latter proposal is continuing or whether a decision has been made.

Yours sincerely,  
  
Dr. John Cunningham, M.P.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.  
Prime Minister  
No. 10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1.