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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 July 1981

Dear Councillor Smart

Thank you for your letter of 7 July asking me to receive a deputation from your Association about the plight of England's inner cities.

I know that Michael Heseltine had discussions with you recently, and that officials have subsequently been looking at the handling of the volume reductions and the distribution of the block grant for 1982/83.

In addition, of course, as the Home Secretary has announced in the Debate last Thursday, Mr. Heseltine is spending two weeks in Merseyside looking at the particular problems there, and reporting back on whether there are any more general lessons for the inner cities.

I think it would be best therefore to defer any meeting until after Mr. Heseltine's return, when I am sure he would be glad to set up a meeting. That will provide an opportunity for you to discuss the points made in your letter of 22 July, which I have just received.

signed

MT

Councillor Jack Smart, C.B.E., J.P.

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