



Merseyside County Council

OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

Metropolitan House
Old Hall Street
LIVERPOOL
L69 3EL

14th August 1981

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
The Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
Westminster
LONDON

Dear Prime Minister

RIOT DAMAGES - GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

Your proposal on Government assistance to local authorities incurring extra costs arising from riots and from payments under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886 were made known to the County Council at its meeting on Tuesday last. In the absence of the Leader of the Council, I have to advise you that the Council felt obliged to pass the following resolution as an addendum to a supplementary budget precept resolution; viz

- (a) This Council notes and supports the decision of the Police Committee and immediate representations be made to Central Government to the effect that the offer of financial assistance towards the additional police costs arising from the civil disturbances and possible payments under the Riot (Damages) Act 1886, as proposed in the Prime Minister's announcement of the 10th August 1981, is totally inadequate so far as this authority is concerned;
- (b) Central Government be advised that the offer is regarded only as a basis for discussion in the belief that such financial assistance should be extended to cover the whole of the expenditure concerned;
- (c) The Prime Minister be asked to receive, as a matter of urgency, a deputation to discuss the serious financial consequences arising from the recent civil disturbances.

I am aware of your expression of concern for Merseyside evidenced by your visit following the Toxteth riots. In all the circumstances, I must ask you to enter into further early discussions with the County Council in an endeavour to reach an acceptable solution to the immediate and pressing problem of the burden of expenditure consequent upon riot damage.

/contd.

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP

14th August 1981

The Leader of the Council and indeed the Council's entire membership will await your response in hope and expectation.

Yours faithfully

Jack Gershman

Deputy Leader