

Prime Minister



PRIME MINISTER

Amend
MS 1616/8
August 1982

I should be grateful for your approval to appoint Mr Ed Berman as my Special Adviser on Inner City Policy, with special reference to the role of voluntary organisations.

Mr Berman is at present a member of the Inter Action International Institute for Social Enterprise, a unit which is concerned with training, research and action in mutual help and social problem solving. In the course of his work for my Department, Mr Berman will look at the involvement of the voluntary sector in inner area programmes. We will be considering, in particular, how to increase the 'leverage' of private funds. I am convinced that he could make a major contribution to improving the understanding of central Government about both the potential and the needs of the voluntary sector.

It is proposed that Mr Berman's appointment will be for a period of 9 months, working on a part-time (two-thirds) basis. The other terms of the appointment, including salary, will be cleared with the central departments.

Mr Berman is keen to avoid any possible conflict of interest. A memorandum of understanding is being prepared which will cover any continuing contacts with Inter Action (and in particular the position on grant applications for the Urban Programme), the area of his responsibility within DOE and the application of the Civil Service rules of conduct.

I am sending a copy of this letter to the Home Secretary, whose voluntary services unit keeps an eye on Government involvement with the voluntary sector generally.

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