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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 September 1983

Abolition of the Greater London Council (GLC) and the Metropolitan County Councils (MCCs)

Your Secretary of State minuted the Prime Minister on 20 September about the decisions required for the White Paper on the abolition of the GLC and the MCCs.

The Prime Minister prefers deferment of the May 1985 elections of the GLC and MCCs (with a reserve power to substitute if individuals would not serve) to substitution.

She also has much sympathy with the Chief Secretary's view on financial and manpower controls. But the Prime Minister has minuted that if staff are to be transferred by statute in groups how would the Government reduce numbers in bodies like the ILEA?

These points apart, the Prime Minister agrees to the proposals in your Secretary of State's minute.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to the other members of the Cabinet, the Attorney General, the Minister for the Arts, the Minister for Local Government and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

M. B. SCHOLAR

Hilary - typed
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