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File

JSC



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

1 August 1980

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 30 July to Alistair Pirie, about the Government Conference Centre.

The Prime Minister has seen the text of the Answer which your Secretary of State proposes to give to Michael Latham, and she is content with this.

I am sending copies of this letter to Alistair Pirie (Chief Secretary's Office, HMT), Paul Lever (FCO), Jim Buckley (Lord President's Office) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

M. A. PATTISON

Paul Bristow, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

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✓ MAP

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Paul Bristow Esq  
Private Secretary to the  
Secretary of State  
Department of the Environment  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 3EB

1 August 1980

Dear Paul,

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

Thank you for your letter of 30 July. The Chief Secretary has seen the draft Answer which it is proposed should be given to Mr Latham. He agrees with your Secretary of State that when Cabinet discussed this matter on 17 July (see CC(80)29, Item 4) it was accepted that the whole of the sub-structure, including the extension to the Parliamentary telephone exchange, could proceed at public expense, albeit that the Conference Centre itself must be financed from the private sector if it is to go ahead; and he is content with the draft Answer which is proposed.

I am copying this letter to those who had copies of your letter.

Yours sincerely,  
Alistair Pirie

A C PIRIE  
Private Secretary

-1 AUG 1980







Prime Minister (through <sup>MS</sup> N/S)

2 MARSHAM STREET  
LONDON SW1P 3EB

Content with this  
written answer  
about the Broad  
Sanctuary site?

My ref:

Your ref:

30 July 1980

Dear Alistair

*MS MS. MP 30/ VII*

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE

Michael Latham, MP, has tabled a written Parliamentary Question which has appeared on today's Order Paper asking my Secretary of State what proposals he has for the development of the Government Conference Centre planned on the Broad Sanctuary site.

Mr Heseltine proposes to answer this PQ on Friday of this week in the following terms which, I understand, officials in this Department have agreed with Treasury Officials:

"The diaphragm wall has been completed. I expect soon to invite tenders for the rest of the substructure, incorporating the extension to the Parliamentary telephone exchange, at a cost of £3.2m for which there is provision in present public expenditure plans, and I propose to explore how the Conference Centre itself could be financed from the private sector."

I am copying this to Mike Pattison (No. 10), Paul Lever (FCO), Jim Buckley (CSD) and David Wright (Cabinet Office).

*Yours sincerely*

*Paul Bristow*

P N BRISTOW  
Private Secretary

Alistair Pirie Esq