

CCB/UP

PRIME MINISTER

20 November 1985

LIVERPOOL

There are disturbing signs in today's press that Ministers may be on the point of getting the jitters about Liverpool.

There is no need for you to take any action at this stage. Nor is any special meeting required. But you may wish to remind Cabinet tomorrow that:

1. The policy of brinkmanship has been working superbly.
2. The Government's public line should continue to be: "Liverpool council have been offered endless ways of solving their problems; if they fail to take these opportunities, they must live by the results of their own recklessness".
3. There is absolutely no question of taking over the city unless and until the people of Liverpool and the public in general are clamouring for the Government to do so.

This is just like the miners' strike: if your nerves are better than theirs, you will win.

*Oliver Letwin*

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