

SUBJECT

ce Marks



76

JP

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

1 February 1984

Dear John,

The Prime Minister met the Bishop and Archbishop of Liverpool today for a private discussion about Merseyside. Your Secretary of State and Mr. Michael Alison, the Prime Minister's Parliamentary Private Secretary, were also present.

The Bishop of Liverpool thanked the Prime Minister for making time to see them. He and the Archbishop felt deeply for the Merseyside community of which they were part. In the inner city parishes particularly, people felt that God had deserted them. They were alienated from the planning process, and no longer believed that attempts to consult them were genuine. Unemployment on Merseyside was long term, indeed indefinite, and efforts to reduce unemployment on a national scale would have little impact locally. There were streets and whole communities with no effective access to the job market. Part of the explanation, in his view, was "the mobility of the self-confident". It was rare to find Liverpool managers in charge of Liverpool firms, though there were many successful Liverpool managers elsewhere.

The Archbishop of Liverpool agreed that Merseyside people felt they had little part in determining their own destiny. Nevertheless, the past two years had seen improvements, especially in community policing which was helping to rebuild confidence. Against this background, the City Council's decision to take over the housing plans being developed on a self-help basis by cooperatives had been a major setback - not least because of the history of poor housing management by the Corporation.

The Prime Minister was very concerned that the Council should have acted in this way, essentially for doctrinaire reasons. A sense of involvement in one's own affairs, and a sense of personal achievement, were basic human needs.

In discussion of local government on Merseyside, your Secretary of State said that the current scene was overshadowed

/by uncertainty

uncertainty about what the City Council would do about rates. To balance the books would take a reduction of £7 or £8 million in expenditure, coupled with a rate increase of 30 per cent. It was unclear whether, given the historical divisions between the parties, a moderate majority could be found for such a policy.

The Archbishop said that the County Council was one of the few forces for unity in the area. Its officials were generally of a high calibre. Despite faults, the County Council's efforts had received widespread support - for example from the Chamber of Commerce. The Bishop added that people found it hard to understand why the Government was abolishing the one authority which had behaved sensibly in Merseyside. His experience with the London Docklands Joint Committee suggested that joint boards of district councils would find it hard to rise above sectional interests. It was essential that they should do so if they were to succeed in "selling" Merseyside to investors.

The Prime Minister responded that support for the County Council was in itself a measure of the failure of the City Council, which should by rights be the lead authority in the area. Your Secretary of State commented that it was clear from his discussions with the County Council that they saw themselves not so much as a provider of services as a tier of regional government. The fact was that they had failed to tackle the dereliction of the docklands effectively.

The Prime Minister asked what would be the effect on Merseyside if the Government were to establish a Freeport there. The Archbishop replied that the economic benefits of such a step were undoubted, and would be welcome. But the major impact would be on morale. Establishing a Freeport would be seen as a vote of confidence by the Government in Merseyside.

In discussion of industrial issues, the Prime Minister noted that although unemployment was very high the level of wages paid to those in work was above the national average. The Bishop responded that recent figures suggested that productivity in Merseyside was also above average - at Halewood production per man was 70 per cent higher than the average for car workers nationally. Firms moving to Merseyside arguably faced more "hassle" with their workforce, but they stood to be rewarded by a job well done. The mistake some employers had made had been to import managers and supervisors from other parts of the country.

The Bishop of Liverpool referred again to the scale and long-term nature of unemployment. Government schemes such as YTS and the Community Programme were dwarfed by the size of the problem. The Port of Liverpool, with its large concentration of unskilled labour, had been created to serve the nation's needs. Arguably, now that the market for Liverpool's services had moved on, it was for the nation to direct new investment there.

/The Prime Minister

The Prime Minister commented that the direction of investment to uneconomic areas could not be sustained if the market was not prepared to pay a higher price. Your Secretary of State said that there were many examples of new investment in Merseyside, although he conceded that not all were on the Liverpool side of the river, and that many small businesses would be needed to compensate for large-scale factory closures. The Prime Minister added that even if Merseyside had to live with unemployment for the foreseeable future, much could and should be done to improve the physical environment. It was encouraging to see the progress being made by the Development Corporation in this regard. Ways had to be found to help people adapt to change, both in a technological sense, and in terms of their mobility. But she did not underestimate the difficulty of rebuilding people's confidence to the point where they would be prepared to seek change rather than fight it.

The Prime Minister concluded by saying that she remained concerned to keep in touch with the problems of Merseyside, and the feelings of the people there. This was not always easy because of the barriers to communication deliberately erected by political extremists. But she would not be deterred.

Yours ever,

David

John Ballard, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

ARCHBISHOP'S HOUSE,
87, GREEN LANE,
MOSSLEY HILL,
LIVERPOOL L18 2EP.

Telephone:
051 - 722 - 2379

3rd February 1984.

Your Prime Minister

R6

I write to offer you my sincere thanks for the kindness with which you received Bishop Sheppard and myself on Wednesday morning. We were both very conscious of the heavy pressures on your time and are more than grateful for the opportunity you gave to us to represent to you some of our hopes and anxieties regarding Liverpool's future.

Yesterday's news about Free Port status has been received here exactly as we wished. The local press and radio have picked up Patrick Jenkin's point that it may be seen as an act of confidence by the Government and I hope that it will be an encouragement to Jim Fitzpatrick and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company who have made such promising strides in the last few years.

Clearly we still have very many party-political problems to face here where the polarisation of opinion can be so acute. It was good to be able to lay some of our anxieties and suggestions before you and we really were most grateful for your time.

*Your very sincerely
+ Paul Worsell*

The Rt. Hon. Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister's Office,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.



10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

In addition to the main brief below (which you have already seen) you may like to glance at the Policy Unit note opposite.

You could perhaps mention in confidence that you are hoping to visit Liverpool (mainly to see the International Garden Festival) on Friday 13 July.

v DMB
3/11

CONFIDENTIALcc Mr Redwood
Mr Letwin

1. MR BARCLAY
 2. MR TURNBULL
-

*Prime Minister**27/1*

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH THE
ARCHBISHOP AND BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

We believe that the Archbishop and Bishop will wish to raise one central issue with the Prime Minister - the economic plight of Merseyside and/or Liverpool - and possibly the school situation in Liverpool itself.

Attached are two aides-memoire. The first is a distillation of the points which arose in discussions I had last week on Merseyside with the Manpower Services Commission, Merseyside Task Force and the Merseyside Development Corporation. The second is Oliver Letwin's summary of the schools problem.

R.J.

ROBERT YOUNG
27 January 1984

CONFIDENTIAL

LIVERPOOL AND MERSEYSIDE - THE ECONOMIC SITUATION

1. The Merseyside economy is too small to support its present population of 1.5 million. It cannot sustain more than about 1 million. A slow decline in population is going on anyway, and the key problem over the medium to long term for central and local government is how to manage the decline. The idea of halting or reversing the decline by special measures to create jobs in industry is a complete non-starter.
2. The general economic revival taking place in the UK as a whole will not help Merseyside employment much, if at all. The largest traditional employers - the port, the edible oil based food industries, and the commercial and distribution systems which clustered round them - will not revive to their former levels, even if they have not declined beyond revival. Merseyside is now correctly characterized as a "branch plant" industrial economy: some 75% of jobs are thought to be in branches of companies based elsewhere. Even the largest locally based employers - Littlewoods, Vernons, Bibbys, Unilever and a few others - have had to shake labour out to stay competitive.
3. Curiously, wage rates do not reflect the local unemployment level. (MSC maintain that building trade wage rates are the highest in the UK outside London). And all to whom I spoke stressed that Merseyside does deserve its reputation for bad industrial relations, sceptical though we should be about applying overblown generalizations to several hundred thousand people. The fact is that first the port and then the volume car industries have been breeding grounds for bolshiness and that very large numbers know no other way of behaving towards employers.
4. There is no visible pattern of new job creation in Merseyside, such as might assist in determining better or worse areas for Government "encouragement". Companies newly setting up are very small and the vast majority are unlikely to take permanent root. Relative to other regions, Merseyside is noticeably short of enterprises in the 500-600 employee category, and just as short of the self employed.
5. If Merseyside's problem of industrial unemployment is beyond the effective reach of reasonable people and finite funds,

/the rescue

the rescue of physical dereliction takes on particular importance. All those to whom I spoke took the view that, jobs or no jobs, patches of parkland are infinitely better than shattered buildings and streets. I agree. There was all round esteem in this context for the work of the Merseyside Development Corporation (MDC).

6. MDC's task is the rapid improvement of a limited area - 865 acres - of derelict dockland on the Liverpool side of the Mersey. It has its own funding, its own planning powers, a limited life, operates largely on business principles, and is charged with attracting private capital into the area. Private capital has barely started to appear yet, but we have to respect the vigorous start that team has made and its clear awareness of the marketing skills it needs to acquire (or buy in) and of the risks it is taking with its allocated funds. The International Garden Festival is the boldest of their endeavours. If it succeeds, MDC will have some 200 marketable acres of landscaped ground for housing developers to buy; at worst, we shall have 200 acres of greenery in lieu of dereliction.

7. The Merseyside Task Force (MTF) is seeing through projects initiated or identified by Michael Heseltine, and in effect is the DOE's special projects team working through Merseyside local authorities. MTF observe non-stop strife between the ultra left Liverpool City Council and virtually all other authorities which have an interest in the Merseyside problem. (Indeed, local reservations about the abolition of metropolitan county councils focus on the greater liberty which the city council will then enjoy.) MTF now enjoy £40m of "own resources" which they can spend only via local authorities. One senior MTF representative doubts whether the full allocation can be spent in the face of ideological opposition from the City Council.

8. Conclusions

- Do not hope for (or spend money on) large scale job creation on Merseyside.
- Accept that the Merseyside population is in structural decline.

- Spend modestly to relieve physical dereliction for the benefit of those who remain. |
- Attempt the relief of dereliction in limited chunks but to a high standard. In that way some private sector development will be attracted in. |
- Ensure that the idiocies of Liverpool City Council's behaviour are well publicized.

Rj.

ROBERT YOUNG
27 January 1984

LIVERPOOL AND MERSEYSIDE - PROBLEMS WITH SCHOOLS

1. The Bishops may well wish to discuss the state of Liverpool's schools. The Prime Minister will therefore want to be reminded of the situation; she should also be warned about a number of traps that may be set for her.
2. Liverpool has suffered both from the general in births and from "emigration" of young parents. As a result, its school rolls have fallen dramatically. In one notorious case - Paddington School, Toxteth - buildings designed for 12 forms of entry now contain only three forms of entry, leaving c. 1,500 surplus places. The results are predictable: gross diseconomies of scale, great discrepancies between pupils' requirements and teachers' qualifications, and disastrously low morale.
3. Some 50% of the City's schools are run by Liverpool City Council; a further 40% are voluntary aided Catholic schools; and the remaining 10% are Church of England. For many years, neither the Council nor the Catholics could agree on plans for reorganisation. In 1982, Archbishop Worlock at last put forward proposals for re-organising the Catholic schools. These were reluctantly accepted by Keith Joseph, and have begun to be implemented.
4. The Council has now put forward plans for its "County" schools. These plans are largely the work of Dominic Brady, the 23 year old, ex-caretaker, FE student who is the militant chairman of the Education Committee. The plans involve forcing every child to go to a mixed, comprehensive, neighbourhood school of the Council's choice. Unsurprisingly, the local Conservatives have strenuously objected to this restriction of parental freedom. It is highly unlikely that Keith Joseph will approve the proposal, but the PM should obviously avoid being drawn into any comment, since the matter is virtually sub judice. (Worlock and Shepherd may well attempt to raise the issue, since Worlock, in particular, is believed to oppose the Conservative alternative plans more strongly than Labour's scheme.)
5. No proposals have yet been brought forward by the Church of England for reorganising their schools. The Prime Minister might well take this opportunity to express the hope that they will come forward soon with a sensible plan.

6. The Bishops may also raise the case of the Liverpool Institutes. These are two traditional, quasi-selective schools, with a strong academic tradition. One of them is for boys, and the other for girls. Worlock, being a vigorous proponent of comprehensives, is known to dislike the Institutes. HMI have recently criticised the boys' Institute; and Worlock may use this as a reason for attempting to extract some adverse comment from the Prime Minister. He may, in addition, attempt to attack the excellent, independent, ex-direct-grant Blue Coat School, whose existence he has strenuously opposed for some time past. The Prime Minister may wish to parry these moves, given that these three schools - though undoubtedly imperfect in some respects - are the best hope for Liverpool children.

7. Because of the condition of the schools, the upheaval of the Catholic reorganisation, and the disputes over Labour's current plans for the "County" sector, education will undoubtedly be one of the main local issues, (perhaps the main issue), in the forthcoming Council elections.

Oliver Letwin.

OLIVER LETWIN
27 January 1984

E.R. by Merseyside Task Force.

BRIEF FOR MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL AND THE ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL ON TUESDAY, 1 FEBRUARY

1. This meeting follows a brief discussion between the Prime Minister and the Bishop and Archbishop at the Archbishop of York's enthronement ceremony.
2. The Bishop and Archbishop may wish to discuss the general attitudes held by the people of Merseyside, local morale, whether the popular image of Merseyside is fair, the role of the Churches, and touch on specific issues.

Ecumenism

3. Liverpool did have a poor reputation, rightly, for destructive sectarian attitudes. In recent times this has not been a significant feature. The Bishop and Archbishop make considerable personal efforts to promote understanding between the Protestant and Catholic communities. The latest example of this is their joint visit this week to Belfast to promote Protestant/Catholic harmony. The visit of the Pope to Liverpool in May 1982 was a success.

Local Attitudes and the Image of Merseyside

4. The Bishop and Archbishop may refer to Merseyside's longstanding economic difficulties, and the feeling of hopelessness and despair that the apparently unremitting job losses engender. These trends fuel extreme local political attitudes and a destructive approach by trade unions. They may argue that the industrial relations image of the area is unfair and distorted by the substantial presence locally of industries which are strike-prone nationally: docks and car assembly. They may also refer to a report produced by the County Council claiming that labour productivity in certain industries on

/Merseyside

Merseyside is higher than the national average.

5. There are many Merseyside companies where industrial relations and productivity are good, though certain technical criticisms can be made of the County's findings. In the last year or so there has been relative peace in the docks and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company is currently trading profitably (after substantial aid has been given by Government). Great efforts still have to be made, however, before Merseyside overcomes its industrial relations image. During private discussions between Merseyside Task Force officials and local factory managers the latter have often said that a great deal of management time is taken up on industrial relations matters falling short of strike action. Over the last year there have been strikes at Fords and Cammell Laird which set back the image of the area. The remedy lies in the hands of those working locally - both management and unions.

Freeport

6. The case for the Freeport may be pressed. A bid has been submitted by the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company for a freeport adjoining the Company's container terminal at Seaforth. (Confidential: It is understood that the Chancellor of the Exchequer is holding a meeting with Ministerial colleagues on 31 January to decide where freeports are to be established. Liverpool is not on the shortlist).

/Manpower Services Commission:

Manpower Services Commission: Community Programme

7. The Bishop is Chairman of the MSC Area Board which advises the MSC on proposed projects. Because the MSC were in danger of breaching the cash limit on the Community Programme (CP) which funds temporary adult employment opportunities, a national moratorium was imposed in November. The Secretary of State for Employment secured additional funding for the CP programme this year - £15M - bringing total 1983/84 expenditure on CP to £394M. Following the additional funding, the moratorium was lifted and this eases the Area Board's problems. The Board, however, still have a difficult task in deciding which of the many worthwhile CP schemes submitted can be approved.

Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Priorities

8. The Bishop is a member of this Commission which is examining inner city problems. It is understood that the Commission will be visiting Merseyside in Mid-February.

Toxteth

9. The Chief Constable's continuing community policing experiment (re-introduction of foot patrols and much improved liaison arrangements between the police and local community organisations) has done a great deal to improve relations between the police and the local black community. The scale of housing improvement in the area is considerable and better training schemes for local young people have been set up under YTS. The rate of unemployment remains high, particularly for younger people, and that represents an underlying and continuing cause for concern. There is no current evidence, however, that a further severe breakdown in law and order can be expected.

/ Local

Local Government

10. Reference may be made to the future of the County Council and the politically extreme Liverpool City Council. The Secretary of State for the Environment is meeting the County Council on Monday 30 January to discuss abolition of the Metropolitan Counties and the White Paper "Streamlining the Cities". There is considerable pressure locally (eg from the Chamber of Commerce) to retain the County. In private discussions, however, even one or two of the Labour Districts accept the case for rationalisation of metropolitan local government.

11. The pressure to retain the County derives from the view that Merseyside's longstanding economic problems mean that one body is required to speak for Merseyside and the County fulfils that role. Second, there is local concern about the approach of Liverpool City Council and whether the necessary co-operation would be achieved at District level given Liverpool's extreme political stance.

12. These arguments do not undermine the case for the County's abolition. There is duplication of functions under the present arrangements and streamlining of the existing structure could well achieve better value for money. Clearly difficulties will arise if Liverpool maintain their present stance but the Districts may well fall into line when the appropriate legislation is before Parliament.

/ Education

Education

13. The Secretary of State for Education and Science approved a major rationalisation of Roman Catholic secondary education on a comprehensive basis, after many years of local discussions. The reorganisation was implemented in September 1983. Statutory proposals for rationalising county secondary schools are now before the Secretary of State. These proposals would reduce the number of schools (most of which are comprehensive) from 27 to 17. The proposed schools would be 11-18 neighbourhood comprehensives. The proposals would secure significant revenue savings. There is considerable local controversy about these proposals on the grounds that good schools would not be preserved, parental choice would be limited, and that there would be no provision for single sex education. The Secretary of State is likely to make a decision in March/April.

Government Assistance to Merseyside

14. Substantial support is being given to the area to make it attractive to investors. Much effort is being devoted to the removal of eyesores, regenerating derelict land, refurbishment of buildings, and to encourage private investment. The attached Annex lists the main examples of financial support.

MERSEYSIDE TASK FORCE

27 January 1984.

MAIN EXAMPLES OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP REGENERATE
MERSEYSIDE

1983/84 Estimated Spend

Urban Programme (including Liverpool Inner City Partnership)	£32M
Merseyside Task Force Special Projects	£40M
Upgrading Derelict Land	£12M
Housing Corporation support for Housing Associations	£53M
Capital Allocation to local authoriities for housing (excluding capital receipts)	£70M
Merseyside Development Corporation (including International Garden Festival)	£35M

Under the Ports (Financial Assistance) Act 1981 total financial assistance to the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company is £134M (e.g., capital debt write-off and to assist in severance payments).

Over the last three years Department of Trade and Industry assistance to companies within the Merseyside Special Development Area has been at an average of £110M each year.

Expected total MSC expenditure in Merseyside in 1983/84 is about £110M.



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434
My ref:

Your ref:

27 January 1984

Dear David

Attached is the brief for the
Prime Minister's meeting with the
Bishop and Archbishop of
Liverpool, about which we
spoke.

Yours

Alan Davis

David Barclay Esq

TO: PS/SOS ROOM N16/05

10F4

FROM: KEC SORENSON MTF

BRIEF FOR MEETING BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL (DAVID SHEPPARD) AND THE ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL (DEREK WORLOCK): 1 FEBRUARY 1984

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27 January 1984

4004 MANCHESTERMAIN EXAMPLES OF GOVERNMENT FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO HELP REGENERATE
MERSEYSIDE

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Expected total MSC expenditure in Merseyside in 1983/84 is about £110M.



Caroline

To fix meeting
please.

10 DOWNING STREET

DMS
12/12

~~M-H p-fo~~

This is a P.O.
subject. But is it
best if you get
re Bishops?

ER

12/12.

David Barclay

We spoke - and agreed that
it wd be right for you to
deal with this encounter
and for me to keep my
distance.

(pto)

David Sheppard (Bp of Liverpool)
'15051-7089480 —
has chaplain (\equiv Priv Sec)
being the Rev Bob Wilkes.

I do not have a
phone number for the
RCABp — but suggest
you deal only with
David Sheppard's office.

Robin Carford



10 DOWNING STREET

Caroline

Could you please fix
this for Jan / Feb.

About $3/4$ hour:

Bishop of Liverpool

Archbishop of Liverpool

Patrick Jenkin

+ R Catford or me

DMS

12/12

Return to David for action.



da

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 December 1983

Thank you for your letter of 5 December about the request from the Bishop and Archbishop of Liverpool for a private meeting with the Prime Minister to discuss Merseyside.

The Prime Minister has agreed to such a meeting, to take place in the New Year, and I have written accordingly to the Bishop of Liverpool. The Prime Minister would be grateful if your Secretary of State could also attend the meeting, and we will be in touch shortly to fix a time.

In due course, perhaps you could also arrange for the preparation of a short brief.

David Barclay

A.H. Davis, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

9 December 1983

PERSONAL

The Prime Minister has now had an opportunity to consider the letter of 21 November from yourself and the Archbishop of Liverpool, in which you sought a private meeting with her to discuss Merseyside.

The Prime Minister would be pleased to meet you and the Archbishop privately, and we will be in touch with both your offices to arrange a convenient time early in the New Year. The Prime Minister feels it would be helpful if Mr. Patrick Jenkin were also present, and we will be arranging accordingly.

David Barclay

The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Liverpool

PRIME MINISTER

Please see the attached letter from the Bishop and Archbishop of Liverpool. This follows up a brief conversation you had after the enthronement of the Archbishop of York.

Patrick Jenkin is inclined to favour a meeting. There are no particular timing constraints.

Agree we aim for a meeting in January?

Although the Bishops ask for a "private" meeting, you might like Patrick Jenkin to be present. He will be seeing them both on 15 December and hopes to get a clearer idea then of the specific points they are likely to raise with you.

Agree we also invite Patrick Jenkin?

Yes
ms

DMS

8 December 1983



DB 575

c.c. Robin Catford

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB
01-212 3434

My ref:

Your ref:

5 December 1983

Dear David

Thank you for your letter of 29 November about the request that the Prime Minister has received for a meeting with the Bishop and Archbishop of Liverpool.

As you know, both the Bishop and Archbishop take a close personal interest in the economic and social affairs of Liverpool. They make known publicly their concern about the local economy and the number of company closures. The Bishop is Chairman of the local MSC Area Board.

My Secretary of State considers that the Prime Minister might wish to see the Bishop and Archbishop. It might be helpful if no firm arrangements were made until after 15 December. My Secretary of State is having dinner with the Bishop and Archbishop on that day and it would be useful to take account of that discussion.

Yours ever

Alan Davis

A H DAVIS
Private Secretary



13/12. 089

Bishop of LIVERPOOL

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

29 November 1983

I enclose a copy of a letter which the Prime Minister has received from the Bishop and Archbishop of Liverpool in which they seek a private meeting to discuss the problems of Merseyside. This letter follows up a brief conversation between the Prime Minister and the Bishop of Liverpool when they met at the Enthronement of the Archbishop of York.

I should be most grateful for any advice your Secretary of State would care to offer before the Prime Minister decides whether to agree to the proposed meeting.

MR. D. BARCLAY

John Ballard, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

089

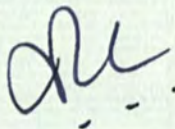
MR BARCLAY

You asked for advice on the attached approach to the Prime Minister from the Bishop of Liverpool and the Archbishop of Liverpool.

Both prelates are well known for their individual and joint concern over social conditions on Merseyside, and the Prime Minister had hoped to encounter both of them in the course of her visit to York on 18 November. In fact she met only the (Anglican) Bishop of Liverpool, this being at the Reception following the Enthronement service in the Minster. As his letter indicates, this meeting was brief and disjointed - and I think the Prime Minister found it disappointing if not positively irritating.

She did not meet the (Roman Catholic) Metropolitan Archbishop. He had played a small part in the service, and the Prime Minister asked me to try and get hold of him for a short word during the Reception. Unfortunately he had to return immediately to Liverpool without ever coming to the Assembly Rooms.

I daresay that the Prime Minister will now be willing to consider a private meeting with them, and in that event it would certainly be right for us to obtain briefing from DoE.



28 November 1983



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr Catford

Can you advise on
the background to
this?

And would it be alright
to ask DoE for a brief,
if the PM agrees to
a meeting?

DMB
23/11



do

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

23 November, 1983.

I write in the absence of the Prime Minister in India to thank you and the Archbishop of Liverpool for your letter of 21 November.

Your letter is receiving attention, and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

David Barclay

The Right Reverend the Lord Bishop of Liverpool

The Rev David Sheppard

051 708 9480

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

21st November, 1983

RJB

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher,
10 Downing Street,
LONDON S.W.1.

GR

Ack (receiving atten)
please & return to
me for action.

Dear Prime Minister.

We write following the brief conversation at York. Your immediate interest in Merseyside was greatly appreciated, though there was a natural frustration at being asked far-reaching questions, when there was only going to be two or three minutes to answer them.

D
23/11

We well understand how many demands are made on your time, but recent developments here, which have caused us great concern, make us feel that it is our duty to ask if we may lay certain considerations in front of you. We would greatly appreciate it, if we could come privately to see you.

Yours sincerely,

David Sheppard

BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.

+1 David Nalick

ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL.