

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY

CC/NO.

CONFIDENTIAL



Prime Minister⁽²⁾

HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

To note. I will find out
this evening whether this
was successful.

28 March 1984

AT
29/3

Dear Andrew,

LIVERPOOL

MT

In your letter of 26 March to John Ballard, you referred to the question of intimidation of the so-called rebel councillors.

As I told you on the telephone yesterday afternoon they are receiving unobtrusive police cover at their homes, and will be transported in plain police cars to the council meeting on 29 March. The arrangements have been discussed in detail by the Chief Constable personally with the councillors concerned and we understand that they are entirely happy with what is being done. It is obviously in the interest of everyone that these arrangements should be as unobtrusive as possible, though there can be no guarantee that these arrangements will remain confidential.

Your letter also records concern about the demonstration outside the Town Hall. The police remain confident that any demonstration will be peaceful, though it may be quite large; and they are confident of having more than sufficient forces on hand to keep any marchers away from the entrance to the Town Hall to ensure that those attending the meeting can come and go without difficulty. In line with their normal arrangements (because disorder is not infrequent at Liverpool City Council meetings) the police will have plenty of men inside the Town Hall itself. Their normal practice, in arrangements agreed with the chairman of the council, is whenever possible to wait until they are summoned to receive his request to eject disruptors. But there is no doubt in law that if there were to be a breach of the peace within the council chamber the police do not have to wait for an invitation but may go in as of right to deal with it, and they are ready to do so.

The Home Secretary's overall assessment remains that which he gave at the meeting of 26 March. There may well be quite large demonstrations and marches in Liverpool on 29 March. The police are confident of their ability to provide unhindered access by councillors to the meeting itself. The main site for speeches and static demonstrations will, they hope, be the Pier Head which is Liverpool's traditional speakers corner. The main march, which may attempt to stop near the Town Hall, will inevitably cause a degree of obstruction and the organisers have been warned of police powers in this respect. The police will keep such obstruction to a minimum, although their tactics will obviously depend to some extent on the action of the marchers; the central police objective will be to ensure that the city council meeting goes ahead unhindered.

I am sending a copy of this letter to those to whom you copied yours.

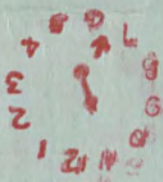
Yours sincerely,
Hugh Taylor

H H TAYLOR

A Turnbull, Esq

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Regional Post A4
Liverpool.



29 MAR 1984