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Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

6 June 1984

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment  
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PS/N

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Mr. Jardine

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*D. Patrick*

You wrote to me on 31 May about the way you intend to deal with Birmingham City Council's requests in connection with their proposal to build a major International Conference Centre and hotel. You have of course since discussed this with John Butcher.

2 I must agree that the public expenditure objections to this proposal are over-riding and I am therefore content for you to proceed as you have indicated. At the same time I am glad to know that you will not close the door to a fresh application if Birmingham can re-think the balance of funding and come up with a fresh scheme which has a greater chance of attracting private sector involvement.

3 As far as the merits of the project are concerned a number of points remain to be considered and positive conflicts of interest resolved. In this connection I think the City would do well to address themselves to questions posed in the report you received from the English Tourist Board. Furthermore, I understand that the ETB has commissioned a study into the demand for conference facilities in the UK. This may be available shortly and will be helpful to any further consideration we give to this.

4 I am copying this letter to Peter Rees.

*Norman Tebbit*  
NORMAN TEBBIT

JH1AHK



30 MAY 1965

