



MO 21/8/5

Prime Minister ②

Mr Heseltine has made
best points before, but does he
have any names.

Agree he be asked for
suggestions?

Note Spoke to Richard Mottram ^{AT} - 20/6
said PM had noted ~~some~~ these
points and asked Mr Heseltine to
convey any names to SS/Enw

PRIME MINISTERLIVERPOOL

- attached ^{AT} 22/6

I have read the minutes of the meeting held on 18th June which I was unable to attend. I wholly subscribe to the conclusions.

2. It is essential to consider now a private list of people who could be approached if - against all our wishes and efforts - we are forced to intervene. We would then have to act very quickly and contingency planning now is wise. I suggest we need to consider how we would expect the Commissioners to approach this task. We must assume the worst circumstances of substantial industrial action and organised demonstrations. There will be very considerable media interest. It may be better than feared but we cannot count on it.

3. We need people not only able to cope in these circumstances but, I am convinced, under the leadership of someone who can actually win the public debate. Obviously an experience of local government will be needed, but I am sure that a Commission heavily influenced by the attitudes and practices of local government will from the start adopt a defensive and unimaginative approach.

4. I would like to record my views about one thought as we consider the selection of Commissioners. My feeling is that the strongest card in our hand is the appalling condition of much of Liverpool's housing. And certainly the housing in parts of the city from which protest can be expected. I would hope that the Commissioners would pursue an active role in dealing with these problems. Nothing in my view would so quickly gain a degree of public sympathy than to cope



with housing mismanagement and the inadequacies of the direct labour organisation. But a traditional local government experience would not have the drive to carry through such a programme much of which should be undertaken by local builders and local unemployed. The precise arrangements for doing this are well established in Department of Environment experience and indeed plans had already been agreed between Sir Trevor Jones and myself to make a start. They failed in Liverpool to get underway in the face of union objection but have proved their worth elsewhere on Merseyside.

5. I am copying this minute to those who attended yesterday's meeting.

Ministry of Defence
19th June 1984

Local Govt Relations

PT 21

CONVENTION
III
LONDON