

OLD



Prime Minister:

BJ
C/001

Rhys Iant advice is attached. They agree that

You should provide a message but have suggested a considerably improved draft.
Agree Rhys Iant draft?

PRIME MINISTER

URBAN POLICY

We intend to make a substantial publicity effort, with Ministers present in the various cities, to launch the five City Action Teams which will pull together DOE, DTI and DE/MSD programmes in the inner city Partnership areas in line with the recommendations of MISC 104. We shall take the opportunity to highlight the very substantial contribution made by Government programmes to these areas. The launch will take place on 18/19 April when we intend to publish a booklet which will describe and illustrate the scope and scale of our programmes. It would give the initiative a splendid boost and emphasise that this really is a joint effort between Departments if you felt able to provide a message on the inside cover of the brochure. I suggest something along the attached lines.

Pr

I am copying this to Willie Whitelaw, David Young, Norman Tebbit and Tom King.

PJ

P J

20 March 1985

PRIME MINISTER'S MESSAGE

will' death of better not
Manchester Policy

The decay in many of our inner cities is something that we must not tolerate.

I am determined that we should arrest the decline. This has been going on for several decades and it has left the cities with many problems - economic, housing and social.

There is no single solution. The problem requires action on many fronts - the creation of new workshops, clearing derelict sites, refurbishing old buildings and building new ones, improving homes, training in new skills, supporting volunteers who help the old and lonely.

The Government accepts its share of the responsibility to overcome these problems. Since 1979 we have increased the money for special projects in our towns and cities through the Urban Programme alone from £50m to £350m. This is done in partnership with the local authorities and in many cases with the private sector. In addition, we are spending £100m on training and £35m on industrial schemes.

I am convinced that these programmes can be better focussed and produce better results. That is why we are setting up City Action Teams in 5 areas - Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Manchester/

Salford and Newcastle/Gateshead. Their task is to get more value
for money spent in these areas.

I want to see real programme and improvements. I want to see
our inner cities become once again places where people want to
live and work and in which firms want to invest.

CONQUEROR

20 MAR 1985

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