



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

25 March, 1985.

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 20 March proposing that she should provide a message to be included in the brochure being published on the scope and scale of the Government's programme to assist the inner cities. The Prime Minister has agreed to provide such a message, but would prefer something along the lines of the attached draft. I should be grateful if you would let me know whether your Secretary of State would be content with such a draft, and if so, I shall arrange for you to receive a signed version.

JONE - NO SIGNATURE REQUIRED.

I am sending copies of this letter to Janet Lewis-Jones (Lord President's Office), Andrew Lansley (Department of Trade and Industry), Iain Mackinnon (Department of Employment), and Leigh Lewis (Office of the Minister without Portfolio).

(Timothy Flesher)

Andrew Allberry, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.

In the course of a nation's life, cities change in size and character. People look for new opportunities in new places.

We should welcome such change. It is a sign of vitality.

But rapid alteration can have painful effects. In our inner cities, it has caused many problems, both social and economic.

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

Our national policies are helping to achieve these aims by fostering an enterprise culture, by making more effective use of our resources, and by providing more up-to-date training.

But we have also spent huge amounts of taxpayers' money on special projects to ease the pains of transition in our towns and cities. The Urban Programme alone has been increased from £50 million to £350 million. This is spent in partnership with the local authorities and in many cases with the private sector. In addition, we are devoting £100 million to specific training schemes and £35 million to industrial schemes.

I am convinced that these programmes could produce better results if they were better focussed. That is why we are setting up City Action Teams in five areas - Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Manchester/Salford, and Newcastle/Gateshead. Their task is to use money more effectively in these areas - to help make the inner cities more habitable for individuals and more attractive to business. I am sure that they will be widely welcomed.