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DEPARTMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENT
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My ref:

Your ref:

Leigh Lewis Esq
Private Secretary to
Lord Young
Cabinet Office
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30 Apr 1995

Dear Leigh,

Thank you for your letter of 22 March about Lord Young's meeting on 21 March with Lord Bruce at which they discussed the proposed "Eurodome" stadium in London Docklands. I am sorry for the delay in replying.

The "Eurodome" is the second proposal to come forward for a large stadium in the Royal Docks, and in addition a further, smaller stadium is already under construction in the West India Docks. I understand that Lord Bruce is aware of these other developments and has discussed the implications for his project with officials from the London Docklands Development Corporation. It is, of course, for Lord Bruce and the developers of the other scheme in the Royal Docks to progress their proposals as they judge appropriate. Whilst DOE Ministers and the Prime Minister (whose comments were copied to you in Mark Addison's letter of 2 April to me) are keen to ensure that viable private sector schemes for Docklands are encouraged, we must also, of course, ensure that a balanced range of development in the area results.

/ As you requested, I attach a draft letter for Lord Young to send to Lord Bruce which also covers the position regarding the 1992 Olympics and suggests that any further queries from Lord Bruce be directed to Mr Macfarlane.

/ A copy of this goes to Mark Addison at 10 Downing Street.

*Yours,
Philip Dykins*

P DYKINS
Private Secretary

DRAFT LETTER FOR LORD YOUNG TO SEND TO LORD BRUCE OF DONNINGTON

Following our interesting discussion of 21 March about the proposed "Eurodome" stadium in Docklands, I have, as promised, drawn this development to the attention of the Prime Minister and to Neil Macfarlane, Minister with responsibility for Sport.

Both the Prime Minister and Neil Macfarlane are concerned to encourage private sector schemes which will attract further investment and will have a significant effect on the regeneration of Docklands. Additionally, Mr Macfarlane is also, of course, keen to encourage sport and recreation provision of both local and national significance.

I understand that you are aware of two similar projects in London Docklands. First, there is the Arena in West India Dock which is currently under construction and which will seat up to 9000; secondly there are the International Sports Marketing proposals for a privately funded multi-purpose stadium (seating up to 30,000) in the Royal Victoria Docks. Questions obviously arise about the implications and viability of three schemes of this kind within Docklands, but I understand that you are pursuing these issues with officials of the London Docklands Development Corporation.

As regards the 1992 Olympic Games which you mentioned at our meeting, any bid to stage the games in this country is entirely a matter for the British Olympic Association and the prospective host cities.

Should you wish to raise any further issues regarding the proposed development or the 1992 Olympics, perhaps the best course would be for you to do so direct with Neil Macfarlane within whose responsibilities these issues fall.

LONDON DOCKLANDS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

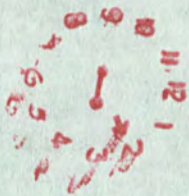
ROYAL DOCKS - SPORTS STADIA PROPOSALS

The LDDC published its Draft Development Framework for the Royal Docks in January 1985. A key theme is the availability of a major development area 5 miles from the centre of London with potentially excellent transport links and scope for major developments - of national as well as regional significance. Two large scale waterfront sites suitable for such developments are identified in the Framework.

Although the Royals infrastructure programme is at an early stage, interest is being expressed by the private sector in future development possibilities. Two major sports interests have been registered, one on each of the sites referred to above.

1. LONDONDOME - Intersport, an American sports marketing firm are carrying out a feasibility study of a site in LDDC ownership in the Royal Victoria Dock. The proposals currently include a domed multi-purpose stadium to seat a maximum of 30,000 people, suitable for a range of sporting and entertainment events; restaurants; sports and health and fitness clubs; and conference and exhibition facilities providing a total space of up to 230,000 square feet. An interim feasibility study has been received from the promoters and a more detailed report is expected at the end of April/beginning of May. The Corporation will consider the proposal once the feasibility work has been assessed.
2. EURODOME - Lord Bruce of Donington has contacted the Corporation in confidence with an outline idea for a covered 70,000 seat stadium with a retractable roof on vacant land not yet in the Corporation's ownership at the eastern end of the Royal Docks area. The Corporation is attempting to acquire the land by agreement from the Port of London Authority and the Gas Corporation but has included it in a compulsory purchase order in case the negotiations fail. No feasibility assessment is available as yet for this second stadium proposal. Lord Bruce has been informed of the Intersport interest. He has a choice between proceeding with developing his own proposal to the same level of detail so that the Corporation can give it full consideration, bearing in mind that fees would have to be incurred in the process; or discussing his own ideas with Intersport at this stage with a view to pooling resources.

Regional Policy: Inner Cities Pt 6.



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