



10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

30 June 1986

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary of State's minute of 24 June. The Prime Minister has commented that it is excellent news that Trafalgar Square is to be refurbished. She thinks it looks very shabby at present.

Mark Addison

Brian Leonard, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

AB

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cc/5



Prime Minister ①  
Content that Mr Ridley should  
agree the refurbishment of Trafalgar  
Square's pavements and lighting?

PRIME MINISTER

TRAFALGAR SQUARE

Excellent - it is very shabby. MEA 20/6

I thought I should let you know that we have plans for a major refurbishment of Trafalgar Square, in view of the publicity these are likely to attract, and the disruption it may cause to an important London landmark.

Trafalgar Square is badly in need of repair for operational reasons, as well as a general smartening up. The paving is worn and settled, and key underground services are in a very poor state. We have secured comprehensive proposals for repair from consultant architects, and are satisfied that their scheme has been pruned down so as to reap best value for money. The main ingredients are the relaying and renewing of the main paving and the repair of all services and lighting.

not the underground

The work would run from mid 1987 to early 1989 and cost some £1.5m, for which provision has been taken. While the work goes on, activities in the Square will necessarily have to be restricted, but it will never be completely closed to pedestrians' use. We will also ensure that the Square is cleared to enable the Christmas and New Year's Eve celebrations to take place in 1987 and 1988. Interference with traffic flow will not be significant.

I propose, subject to your views, to agree that the scheme should proceed. This will mean consulting the various statutory and amenity bodies, so knowledge of the scheme will become general. I would stress in any publicity, that this is a very necessary refurbishment scheme for a much used and appreciated London landmark, which will retain its essential character. I shall be grateful if you would let me know if you are happy for me to proceed on that basis.

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24 June 1986