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cc BG



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My ref:

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Jeremy Godfrey Esq
Private Secretary to
The Rt Hon the Lord Young of Graffham
Department of Trade and Industry
Victoria Street
LONDON
SW1

15 July 1987

Dear Jeremy,

CO-ORDINATION OF CORRESPONDENCE ON INNER CITIES

In the course of us working together to ensure co-ordination between our Departments on correspondence which comes to us on inner city issues there have been a few cases where the link has inadvertently broken down and I think that there may be a couple of general lessons to be learnt from these which are worth recording.

First, both our Departments have received letters from the Leaders of prominent city local authorities, who happen also to be significant figures in the local authority associations. Because we have not got our co-ordination quite right in these early days your Ministers have responded to both Leaders without consulting us and we have only just managed to avoid a conflict of responses. Because virtually all proposals raised by major local authority leaders have implications for mainstream programmes such as RSG and HIPs, as well as potentially for other DOE urban programmes, could we agree that this Department either takes the lead in deciding the nature of the response to be made, or is able to contribute to what is sent.

Secondly, No.10 has marked a letter to the Prime Minister from an industrialist in Sheffield to your Department for advice where the main point being made is a criticism of the way in which the policies of Sheffield City Council are holding back regeneration in that city. There is a particular situation in Sheffield which the officials who have provided advice through your Ministers could not reasonably be expected to be aware of and the DOE Regional Director has provided alternative advice as a consequence of this. I think that the general lesson from this case is that where local issues involving a local authority are raised it is again important for this Department to take the lead, or at least be consulted, in the preparation of advice to No.10.

I am copying this to Andy Bearpark at No.10 and Alistair Morgan in the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's office.

Yours
B H Leonard

B H LEONARD
Private Secretary

