



Prime Minister (2)  
MEA 6/8

Prime Minister

INNER CITIES: INTERIM REPORT

*attached*  
I have read with great interest the interim report circulated with E(UP)(87)3, and your own and other colleagues' comments on it. I look forward to seeing the final report after the summer break.

2. Like John Major, I hope that in working up the final report the Cabinet Office will be able to set out more specifically the objectives of the priority action programme. I would also like to see a clearer indication of what the arrangements might look like on the ground and what might be the lines of communication between the target areas and Central Government and between local offices and local services in the areas themselves. The significance of the voluntary sector could be brought in here; and more should be said about how we intend to mobilise not only organisations and institutions but also the individual active citizen, where necessary going past the local authority or supplementing its activities. This picks up (c) in the annex to Mr Norgrove's minute of 31 July.

3. The themes set out in paragraph 5 of the main report rightly include the reduction of crime and fear of crime. I would like to extend that reference to include public disorder about which I wrote to you on 28 July. Chief Constables have emphasised the link which they see between the risk of widespread public disorder and the success or otherwise of the social and economic policies discussed in the report. I fully support and welcome what Kenneth Clarke has said about the police and the local community in the Task Force areas in his letter to me of 3 August.



4. I would also like the final report to recognise more explicitly the position of ethnic minorities. They are disproportionately represented in Inner City areas and it is particularly important that they should not be excluded from the benefits of our policies or feel themselves to be so. They must share fully in the new spirit of self motivation and enterprise if we are not to increase social divisions and the consequent risk of disorder.

5. I have been giving a great deal of thought with John Patten since the election to ways in which we could step up our efforts to reduce crime and increase confidence, both for their own sake and as a contribution to the Inner Cities programme. We have a sound basis of experience and ideas, some of them resulting from the No 10 seminar which you chaired last year, and we are now ready to move forward. We have been working up what we are beginning to call a "Safer Cities" programme, to operate in selected areas similar in number to those suggested for the priority action programme for Inner Cities and perhaps coinciding with them. The programme would be based firmly on the principles of self-motivation and enterprise set out in the interim report, and on breaking the dependency culture ((b) in Mr Norgrove's minute). The two programmes would effectively complement and reinforce each other. Each of the Safer Cities areas would have a Home Office-funded local co-ordinator with the task of preparing a local action plan to meet local needs and based on existing experience and best practice; he or she would then co-ordinate implementation of the plan by the relevant services or voluntary agencies and measure its effects. His task, and the test by which he would be judged, would emphatically be to stimulate effective action and certainly not to introduce extra bureaucracy. The scheme would be a natural development of our existing "Five Towns" project.



6. The police would be fully involved but would not themselves be in the lead. Local plans would almost certainly involve a review by the Chief Constable of the way in which police are deployed, especially to improve order and protection on difficult estates. The areas chosen would in many instances be those where the policing arrangements are specially tailored to meet the severe problems of crime and public disorder which arise there. I do not at this stage propose to bid for a further national increase in police numbers on account of the programme. Part of the message, which we have emphasised before and to which the police themselves attach great importance, is that the task cannot be left to the police. As Kenneth Clarke has said, it is a much wider responsibility.

7. For this reason I hope that the schools would also be involved, in curbing criminality as well as in good works. I see this whole programme as designed to improve social controls as well as social conditions. This balance has to be struck throughout.

8. I am separately preparing a scheme for the National Crime Prevention Organisation which we promised in the Manifesto. As a national and voluntary organisation it would be quite distinct from the Safer Cities initiative which would be a Government programme focussed on specific areas. But the two initiatives would be related and members of the National Organisation would work closely with the co-ordinator in areas where Safer Cities operated.

9. Both the National Organisation and Safer Cities will require extra funds and I will need to make a PES bid. I do not want this minute to anticipate the discussions I will be having with John Major, but Safer Cities would fit in very well with the

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priority action plan proposed in the interim report and would be an important contribution to it. It would also fit in well with many of Hartley Booth's proposals in his paper on Crime Prevention/Third Term. I hope I can complete my discussions with John Major in time for the programme to be announced as part of the authoritative statement of Government policy in the autumn.

10. I look forward to resuming our discussion in September. I am copying this minute to other members of E(UP) and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

*Douglas Hurd.*

6 August 1987





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cc BG

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

7 August 1987

Dear Philip

Inner Cities : Interim Report

The Prime Minister has seen the Home Secretary's minute of 6 August, which she has noted without comment.

I am copying this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(UP) and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Zer

Mark Addison

(MARK ADDISON)

Philip Mawer, Esq.,  
Home Office.

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