

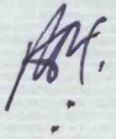
PRIME MINISTER

I saw Nick Ridley at lunch today and he is distressed about the continuing speculation in the press concerning the supposed row going on between him and David Young over who is to take the prime lead on the inner cities.

He says that there is no such argument and David Young confirmed this to me.

They both want some clear statement to be put out from here that a number of different Departments are involved in the inner cities initiative and that it is all being co-ordinated by you.

There does seem to be a difficulty on who would be responsible for statements on what is being done if you were to be in charge. However it is not obvious as to who should be the lead Minister if a decision had to be made.



ARCHIE HAMILTON

21.9.87