

020
Per 9/11
MR BEARPARK

27 October 1987

INNER CITY SEMINAR

Since the beginning of September following our discussion we have been proceeding on the basis that there would be a seminar, I have been discreetly tilling the ground. It would be an extremely important seminar for the PM and for her inner city policy. I cannot overemphasise the importance for business confidence that things are "happening" and that public and private sector are resolved to improve matters. The name of the game in inner cities is perceptions. We feel that a short note on those lines should go to the Prime Minister which we attach. The details herewith are for you.

1 Objectives of the Seminar

Key objective: to allow the PM to test and try out Government's preliminary views in a confidential environment.

- To again publicise the importance the Government places on this topic.
- To widen the net of official and unofficial advice given to Government on the way forward for the inner cities.
- To discuss new policies and initiatives.
- To go beyond Government circles and favoured few in private sector (BIC, Phoenix).
- On one occasion take a view of the whole waterfront.

2 People suggested to attend

- (a) List of people who the Prime Minister has already agreed should be seen on the subject of inner cities.

Alice Coleman (Professor, Kings College, London)

(oral meeting July)

Grant Graves (Businessman, New York) (minute last weekend)

Ernest Hall (Dean Clough Halifax) (minute August)

Weiming Lu (Urban Planner, St Pauls, Minnesota)

(minute last weekend)

- (b) People who should be considered to be invited.

John Banham (CBI)

Sir Lawrie Barratt (Barratt Homes)

Renée Berger (President of Teamworks Inc)

Sir Robin Duthie (Scottish Development Agency)

John Hall (Metro Centre Newcastle)

Bill Hudnutt III (Mayor, Indianapolis)

Sir Hector Laing (BIC)

Martin Laing (Leading UK Developer)

Chris Ledger (Phoenix)

David Lewis (Architect, Pittsburg)

Stephen O'Brien (BIC)

Norman Wakeford (Leading UK Developer in Urban Areas)

Brian Wright (LENTA)

Ethnic Leaders (initially to be nominated by Stephen O'Brien)

Other business leaders

- (c) Ministers and Government members

Prime Minister

Kenneth Clarke

Norman Fowler

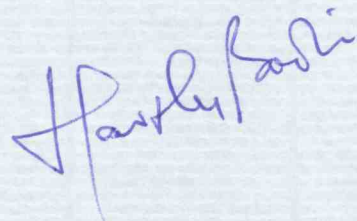
Douglas Hurd
Nicholas Ridley
Lord Young

(d) Officials.

Eric Sorensen
Mr Perry, DTI, etc

Timescale

Better before things get too finalised - December or early
January?



HARTLEY BOOTH



NORMAN BLACKWELL

PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITY SEMINAR

Earlier in the summer we considered the possibility of holding a seminar on inner cities, perhaps on the lines of your very successful design seminars. But we did not put in a particular time scale on this, as it seemed important that you should have made a number of visits first, and indeed that the various government initiatives should have begun to pay off so that the seminar could discuss positive achievements as well as problems.

You have now made a number of visits, but there are some very important ones to come. It will probably be February before you visit Dean Clough in Halifax and indeed spring before you get to the North West. The reasons which Hartley Booth describes for holding a seminar remain valid, but I think we should keep this on ice until next year rather than go firm now on December or January.

Agree?

Yes

Assuming that we do not proceed with a seminar for the immediate moment we are left with the question of whether you could see various people connected with President Reagan's private sector initiative (PSI). I think that Hector Laing may have mentioned this to you at the weekend. You may recall that the PSI held a conference in Paris last year. You were instrumental in persuading Ministers to attend this, and indeed three went. But they were most unimpressed, and found it of no value at all. In the circumstances you might think it better not to invite to No.10 representatives of PSI before you have had a chance to see a more general cross section of people concerned with inner cities. The PSI representatives will be in the UK from 13-16 November which is the three day

period leading up to the Lord Mayor's Banquet.

Content in the circumstances to say that you will not see them on this occasion, but keep them in mind for a future visit?

PS

I think I have to see them - but for 1/2 hour only
no

P.A. Bearpark

2 November 1987

30 October 1987

INNER CITIES SEMINAR

We have understood for some weeks that you were interested in holding an inner city seminar. We support this view for the following reasons.

- 1 This occasion would allow you to test and try out some of Government's preliminary views.
- 2 It would publicise again the importance we attach to revivification and business involvement in the inner cities since it would give an opportunity to build support around a framework for achieving this.
- 3 It would allow us to widen the net of official and unofficial advice given to Government on the way forward in the inner cities.
- 4 It would allow you to go beyond Government circles and the favoured few such as BIC in the private sector.
- 5 It would allow you to take a view of the whole waterfront on one occasion.

We strongly feel that the name of the game in the inner cities is action to promote confidence for business and individuals to act. Your seminar would give a unique opportunity for the Government to show that we mean business. Not by what has already been decided, but because we are prepared to listen to the views of people outside Whitehall. If Government decides its full programme of action before the seminar, some of the purpose of the seminar to listen to a wider cross section of views would have passed. We therefore recommend that we proceed with the inner city seminar with all haste either for a time in December or January 1988. We have put in suggested names to Andy Bearpark.

Hartley Booth

HARTLEY BOOTH