



File DSG
Cassidy

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*From the Principal Private Secretary*SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONGINNER CITIES

As you know, the Secretary of States for the Environment and for Trade and Industry sent the Prime Minister a joint memorandum on 10 November about the appointment of a Minister in the Cabinet Office with responsibility for certain Inner City matters. The Prime Minister has discussed the joint memorandum with the Secretaries of State. She had before her Mr. Wilson's useful note of 17 November.

The Prime Minister has come to no final decision on the nomination of a Minister who would particularly concern himself with certain aspects of the Government's inner city policies. But she has, I think, ruled out the approach in the two Secretaries of State's minute. She has told the two Ministers that she is inclined to give the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster the sort of responsibilities which they alluded to in their minute, and she is going to talk to the Chancellor about the matter on Wednesday.

As a basis for the discussion, I have drafted a Press Notice which describes the responsibilities which the Chancellor might assume; and I attach a copy. Its terms are, I hope, carefully calculated to assuage the sensitivities of the other Ministers concerned, particularly the Secretary of State for the Environment, while giving the Chancellor a real task. If you have any comments on the draft, I would be pleased to have them before it is submitted to the Prime Minister on Tuesday evening.

I will not advise the Prime Minister to raise with the Chancellor the question of Cabinet Office support for his activities, or the future of Mr. Sorensen's unit. I believe that that is something that needs to be considered as a separate matter, and I would suggest to the Prime Minister that she should say as much to the Chancellor if he raises the matter himself.

Could I please ask that you should treat knowledge of Mr. Clarke's meeting with the Prime Minister and of the draft of the Press Notice below as for your personal information, though I would, of course, not object if you wish to show this minute to Mr. Wilson.

N.L.W.

N. L. Wicks4 December 1987

INNER CITIES

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Mr. Kenneth Clarke, will, in addition to his duties in the Department of Trade and Industry, take responsibility, under the Prime Minister, for the co-ordination of Government policies on inner cities and for their presentation.

Notes for Editors

1. Mr. Clarke will assist the Prime Minister in the day-to-day management of Government policies towards the inner cities; and provide a focus, under the Prime Minister, for the presentation of those policies.
2. There is no change in the Departmental responsibilities of Ministers with programmes which are involved in inner city regeneration. Departmental Ministers will remain the primary point of contact for business interests and others concerned with inner city development. Mr. Clarke will be available as an additional point of contact for those wishing to contribute to, or know about, Government policies towards, and support for, inner cities.