

A GOW/08

PRIME MINISTER

INNER CITIES PRESS CONFERENCE ETC

This note sets out your media arrangements for the launch of the Inner Cities booklet on Monday.

Arrival

It would be helpful if you could arrive about 11.05 in the Nightingale Room where all Ministers are to foregather for coffee. This is because Hartley Booth would like you and Kenneth Clarke to be photographed with him, Sir Clifford Chetwood, Sir Hector Laing and Sir John Cuckney. The most convenient thing to do is to have a shot taken just outside the Nightingale Room, before you go into the press conference.

Colour Scheme

As you know, the main auditorium at the Queen Elizabeth II conference centre is green. The predominant colouring on stage - ie backdrop, table cover, etc is blue in varying shades.

The agreed seating plan looking at the stage from the audience is:

x x x x x x x
Mr Clarke Mr Fowler Mr Hurd PM Mr Ridley Mr Baker Mr Channon

There will be name tags on the seats.

Continuously live microphones will be in front of each Minister. You won't need to stand up to speak.

Press Conference

The media will be in possession of all the material for about half an hour before the press conference.

You will lead off with your opening statement and then call each Minister in the following order:

- Mr Ridley)
- Mr Channon) built environment
- Mr Hurd)
- Mr Baker) humanities - fighting crime; education;
- Mr Fowler) training and jobs

Mr Clarke will wind up on an "enterprise" note.

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This will leave about 25 minutes for questions. You are to call the questioners and draw the press conference to a close.

It is important you close the press conference at 12 noon at the latest, in order to give short news interviews to radio and television and get back to No 10 for a meeting at 12.45. We need also a prompt 12 noon start with radio and television interviews to catch the lunchtime bulletins.

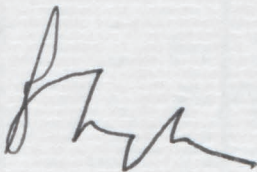
Radio/TV

The radio and television interviews will be conducted in the studios two floors below. You will go down by lift. I assume that we shall have requests for five interviews - BBC radio and television; ITN; IRN and TV-AM. We shall not know the precise number until Monday because for security reasons we are not telling the press about the press conference or its treatment until Sunday.

Kenneth Clarke will pick up later broadcasting bids of a general character - eg Newsnight, World Tonight and the Today programme. Other Ministers are also ready to do their bit for radio and television and several are leaving the press conference immediately to go to the regions.

I will be on hand throughout.

Content?



BERNARD INGHAM
4 March 1988

DRAFT PRESS NOTICE

PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES ACTION FOR CITIES

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher FRS MP, today launched a new drive to bring the benefits of Britain's economic success to the inner cities.

She announced 12 new Government initiatives and commended three major private sector developments at a press conference to mark the publication of "Action for Cities", an illustrated booklet which sets out the Government's inner city policies and programmes.

Mrs Thatcher was joined at the launch in The Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre, London, by six Cabinet Ministers - Douglas Hurd (Home Secretary), Norman Fowler (Employment), Nicholas Ridley (Environment), Kenneth Baker (Education), Kenneth Clarke (Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster) who has special responsibility for day-to-day coordination of inner city policies, and Paul Channon (Transport).

The Prime Minister said:

"The Government is determined to build on a strong economy a new vitality in our inner cities.

"In partnership with the people and the private sector, we intend to step up the pace of renewal and regeneration to make our inner cities much better places in which to live, work and invest.

"The new initiatives being taken by the Government and announced by the private sector show that we all mean business and that we are releasing the talent, enterprise and energy that is at the service of our inner cities.

"We are embarked on a great enterprise which will leave its mark on Britain for decades and carry our towns and cities into the 21st century in much better shape."

Adding to existing major regeneration programmes, the new Government measures are:

- Urban Development Corporations: A new UDC in the Lower Don Valley, Sheffield and the extension of an existing UDC on Merseyside.

The new UDC in the Lower Don Valley, Sheffield covers 2,000 acres to the north east of the city centre. It will have a budget of about £50 million over seven years.

- The area of the Merseyside Development Corporation is to be doubled by adding 800 acres on both sides of the Mersey. The enlarged MDC could spend between £50 million and £90 million over eight to nine years in the new areas.

- **City Action Teams:** Two new City Action Teams are to be set up in Leeds and Nottingham in addition to the five established three years ago which have successfully pulled together Government support for enterprise and development in their areas.
- **City Grant:** A new simplified grant to support private sector developments in inner cities is to be introduced from May 1988. It will replace Urban Development Grant and Urban Regeneration Grant which have produced from the private sector over £580 million in investment, providing 28,500 jobs and more than 7,000 homes since 1982.
- **Unused Land:** The drive to bring unused and underused land onto the market is to be stepped up by requiring publication of information about land in public ownership.
- **New Inner City Roads:** Two new roads costing £109 million, both of which will directly benefit inner cities - a £59 million improvement of the A13 between Limehouse and Dagenham and a £50 million spine route through the Black Country to the M5 and M6.
- **Safer Cities:** A major new initiative to tackle crime and the fear of crime will be introduced in 20 inner cities over the next three years; £2.3 million is being made available in the first year to support the initiative, which has been successfully piloted in five urban areas.
- **Helping Businesses:** More help for small businesses including six new offices for the Small Firms Service, a fund to support Local Enterprise Agency projects helping businesses, an 85% guarantee on bank loans to firms in Task Force areas, and help to encourage people into self employment.
- **Industry/Education Compacts:** The MSC will give financial and other support to 12 inner city Compacts in which groups of employers work with schools and colleges to guarantee a job with training for all young people aged 16-18 leaving school who meet agreed motivation and achievement standards.
- **Helping Unemployed People:** More MSC and Employment service staff working in local communities advising and helping residents, new information points to guide people on training and jobs, special training in literacy and numeracy and English as a second language. New measures to increase the involvement of employers in training.
- **Managed Workshops:** Extra provision of premises for new businesses in rundown inner cities. English Estates in partnership with private companies will set up managed workshops. Up to £11 million of public funding will go into the programme in the first year.

- Working with the Private Sector: the Government is organising a series of breakfast meetings up and down the country, starting in Newcastle on 13 April. A free telephone link 0800 181 518 has been set up today so that businesses can find out from a single contact point how they can play their part.

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. The private sector is separately announcing three new initiatives today. In summary these are:

- Business in the Community: BiC is establishing eight teams headed by business leaders in a campaign to promote business involvement in inner city regeneration. They will focus on key areas of business involvement in education, training, small firms and investment.
- Investors in Industry: The venture capital group 3i is launching a new inner city investment programme to expand its existing venture fund which has already put more than £2 million into schemes in London, Birmingham, Leeds, Manchester, Newcastle and Cardiff.
- Elevenco: The eleven largest British civil engineering and construction companies will seek out inner city development sites. The companies have pledged £55 million for a development programme.

2. The Government measures announced today build on the programmes and initiatives introduced since 1979 to tackle urban dereliction and inner city decay, and to raise skills and encourage enterprise. In all about £3000 million will go to support urban regeneration in Britain in 1988/89, bringing in several times that total in private investment.

The measures described below cover initiatives in England.

Urban Development Corporations: have powers to acquire, reclaim and service land, bring land and buildings into effective use, promote new development and housing and support community facilities.

London Docklands (LDDC) - 1981
Merseyside Docklands (MDC)

Trafford Park - 1987
Teesside
Tyne and Wear
Black Country

Bristol - announced December 1987
Leeds
Central Manchester
Extension of Black Country

Lower Don Valley, Sheffield - announced March 1988
Extension of MDC.

The English UDCs have a budget of £203 million, excluding receipts, in 1988/89.

City Action Teams: bring together the relevant programmes of the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Employment and Manpower Services Commission and the Department of the Environment. The City Action Teams are based in Birmingham, Liverpool, London, Manchester-Salford and Newcastle-Gateshead.

City Grant: will from May 1988 replace Urban Development Grant and Urban Regeneration Grant which have produced from the private sector over £580 million in investment, providing 28,500 jobs and more than 7000 homes since 1982. City Grant will also replace private sector Derelict Land Grant.

Unused Land: Land Registers of unused and underused land owned by public authorities are held by DoE to help prospective developers obtain the release of particular sites. Public owners can be directed to sell land which is registered on the open market. The Land Registers currently contain over 98,000 acres; nearly 50,000 acres have been removed from the Registers since they were introduced in 1981;

Inner City Roads: The new roads announced will be in addition to the existing £2000 million programme of national roads.

Action for Jobs: MSC and DE already spend over £1100 million on employment, training and enterprise programmes in the inner cities serving over half a million people annually. Programmes available in inner cities including:

Youth Training Scheme

Community Programme)
Job Training Scheme) to become new training
programme from September
1988

Enterprise Allowance Scheme

Small Firms Service

Employment Service (with new network of nearly 500 offices)

Managed Workshops: give small businesses access to premises together with advice and support, often from on-site management teams. These small premises contain many units, which can share services such as typing and a canteen. There are over 300 managed workshops, mostly in inner cities.