

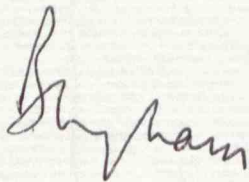
MR NORCROVE

The attached letter from the Secretary of State for the Environment's PS is an accurate summary of the conclusions of a meeting held at the D/Environment on Monday, July 6 under the chairmanship of Terry Heiser. It comes at the end of a relatively successful week on the presentation of the Community Charge.

I have briefed the Prime Minister in your presence on the importance of the Department doing nothing to arouse criticism of its "propaganda" effort at a time when it is taking through Parliament a Bill directed against the use of ratepayers' money for party political purposes.

Steps have already been taken by the Director General, COI, to assist with the provision of staff, including a Principal Information Officer and more junior staff.

Mr Ridley has a very strong point in respect of the all round effort of Ministers to put over the case and we shall need to keep an eye on this.



BERNARD INGHAM

10 July 1987