

CP?

Liverpool

file ?

MR RICHES

Prime Minister

Liverpool

Following your reply in the House yesterday that you would visit Liverpool "rather sooner than I had thought", I hope it might be helpful to consider what you might do and who you might see on a one day visit.

In view of the economic and social climate, I do not think that you should have any party, social engagement on your visit. However, I do believe it would be demoralising if you did not meet some of our own people separately whilst you were in Merseyside.

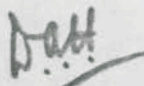
The list below of possible engagements is not in any order of merit.

1. Lord Mayor and Community Leaders
Discussion (visit Toxteth unannounced?)
2. Urban Development Corporation
Boost and meeting with the Chairman
3. Police Chief and Senior Officers
Briefing
4. Enterprise Zone
Progress Report (Visit site?)
5. Successful Private Enterprise
J Bibby (Visit ?)
6. Party workers
Meeting with MPs, Candidates, Constituency Chairman and MEP
(not as a social occasion)
7. Modern Port facility
Seaforth or elsewhere
8. TV and Radio Interviews
Regional - BBC and Granada (5 minutes)
9. Local Radio
Possible phone in programme
or short interviews with BBC/IRN
10. Local Papers
Liverpool Post, Liverpool Echo Meet Editors

/Continued

There could be a working lunch with the two editors or with the UDC or Enterprise Zone people.

Would you like to see a draft programme incorporating some or all of these engagements?



Derek Howe

8th July 1981

cc Clive Whitmore
Willie Rickett

1. PRIME MINISTER

2. LIVERPOOL FILE

Mr Rickett - Non
file please.
e.s. 2/7.

Sir Hector Laing rang yesterday to say that he had been sent a copy of the letter written to you by Sir Douglas Crawford regarding Merseyside.

Following your Parliamentary answer in the House last week that you were considering a visit to Merseyside, Hector is anxious for you to consider a visit to his United Biscuit factory up there. Needless to say, he says it is doing splendidly.....! I obviously did not commit you in any way at all, but would you like us, when we put together a programme for Liverpool, to take into consideration Hector's factory, having of course checked with Industry that it is as good as Hector says it is?

Yes

ms

e.s.

1 July 1981

Regional A.



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

10 July 1981

Mr Clive

As you requested yesterday evening I attach short briefing notes on the Merseyside UDC, and the Enterprise Zone at Speke. Given the shortage of time, these have been prepared by the Private Office: I have no reason to doubt our accuracy!

*Yours
D A Edmonds*

D A EDMONDS
Private Secretary

Clive Whitmore - No 10

MERSEYSIDE URBAN DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

1. The UDC was established on 25 March 1981. The Board, appointed by the Secretary of State for the Environment, is:

Chairman: Leslie Young (Chairman of Bibbys)

Deputy-

Chairman: Sir K Thompson (Merseyside CC)

Sir T Jones (Leader of Liverpool City Council)

Councillor Glover (Sefton MBC)

Councillor Hale (Wirral MBC)

Mr Carter (Managing Director, Littlewoods)

Professor Ashworth (Prof of Urban Studies, Salford University)

Dr Boaden (Dean of Social Studies, Liverpool University)

John Leighton-Boyce (Deputy Chairman, Pilkingtons)

2. The powers of the UDC are set out in Part XVI of the Local Government Act 1980. They are extensive. The Secretary of State can designate "if it is expedient in the national interest" any area of metropolitan land as a UDC area. The object of the UDC is to secure urban regeneration. It may acquire land, instal main services such as water, gas and electricity, and carry on businesses. It can build industrial, commercial and housing premises. It has full planning and building control powers in the defined urban development area.

3. The Merseyside UDC covers about 900 acres of mainly derelict or rundown dockland on both sides of the river in Liverpool, Sefton and Wirral. The aim is to bring that land back into economic use on the shortest possible timescale. The Board - already operating from offices in central Liverpool with a staff rising to 50 in August, led by a Chief Executive with experience of new town development - is being backed with £17 millions of government finance in 1981/82. The Secretary of State for the Environment sees the Board Chairman often, and met the whole Board in Liverpool 2 weeks ago.

4. Much of the budget in 1981/82 will be devoted to land acquisition and clearance, as an essential precursor to economic development. 508 acres of mainly public sector land are about to be vested in the Board (the Orders are before the House of Commons today, 9 July). This land is

*The Orders were approved in the Commons and go to the Lords on 10 July.

mainly discarded and derelict dock and railway land. A series of tasks will be undertaken to get the land, quickly, into active use: filling of docks, repair of lock gates, refurbishing buildings, clearance of derelict buildings, and road and environmental improvement. The immediate aim is to create sites which are attractive to private investors - especially small businesses. There is demand for advance factories. Jobs will be created in the clearance/rehabilitation work, as well as in the businesses which will locate in the UDC area. There will be early opportunity too for private sector residential development.

5. The UDC is working closely with the City Council, local business, and trade unions: it is willing to undertake work in conjunction with the City wherever this is possible. It has prepared an initial development strategy. The Board will remain too in very close contact with the Secretary of State for the Environment, who has emphasised the need for maximising private sector investment on the shortest possible timescale.

DOE

9 July 1981

Reviving the riot-torn centre of Liverpool

Rhys David on a land redevelopment plan

PLANS to devote large areas of land for industrial, leisure and residential development close to the riot-torn centre of Liverpool were unveiled yesterday by the Merseyside Development Corporation. The body was established earlier this year by the Government to revive the city's redundant dockland.

The corporation—sister to similar organisation covering London docks—will, subject to parliamentary approval, acquire ownership on Saturday of 500 acres of land, mostly on the Liverpool side of the Mersey. It says it has almost 50 schemes already identified and waiting to be started.

A total of £17m has been voted to the corporation for the current year, a large part of which seems likely to go on land acquisition. An application for bigger funding next year was made recently.

The corporation is expecting to act mainly as a pump primer, improving the dockside infrastructure and attracting private capital to embark on development schemes.

The difficulties of the scheme

are likely to have been exacerbated by the events of the past week, says Mr Leslie Young, chairman of the Corporation and also of one of Merseyside's biggest companies, the Biffy Group. "They make it that much more important, however, that we succeed," he added.

The plans unveiled by Mr Basil Bean, the corporation's chief executive, cover three main dockside areas, Bootle, Wirral and Liverpool's South docks. He promised a visual impact as well as a modest alleviation of the unemployment in the area within 18 months.

Bootle is close to the Royal Seaforth terminal where the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company is concentrating most of its activities. Efforts will be made in the area to market plans for port-related industry but, if these fail, other developments will be invited. On the opposite Wirral bank of the Mersey, the corporation is planning to undertake a programme

of land reclamation, releasing land for industrial, commercial, recreational and residential development.

The most important contribution will be the opening up of Liverpool's now disused South Docks for a variety of uses. The land stretching for several miles along the Mersey south from the Pierhead had been effectively shut off from the rest of the city by dock operations, all of which have been transferred further down river.

The corporation's plan, coupled with road developments in the area, would extend the boundary of the city to the river front, it is hoped, and create new amenities for local people including those in the neighbouring Toxteth area.

The plans include the restoration of deep water for some of the bigger docks, enabling visiting naval and other vessels to be accommodated again. The work will involve the rebuilding of some locks.

Shallow water will be withdrawn in some of the other docks — all of which are badly silted up — so that they can be used for pleasure purposes. Buildings in the area will be refurbished where possible, and some converted to residential accommodation.

New factory accommodation will also be provided. Part of the area will be reserved as open space. A river side promenade is to be built.

The corporation was created by the Government to break the stalemate over land development in Liverpool — where thousands of acres are owned by public bodies such as the Docks Company and British Rail. The Port of Liverpool is under obligation to use the proceeds of land sales to pay off debenture holders who lost money when the previous port authority went bankrupt 10 years ago.

As a result, it has been reluctant to release land at

depressed prices. The district valuer will now decide, however, the payment it should receive for transferring land to the corporation. Apart from the 500 acres which the corporation is acquiring this weekend, the designated area covers a further 365 acres, some of which is the subject of negotiations between the port and other possible buyers.

The corporation's success is likely to depend on the enthusiasm with which private sector developers respond to the infrastructure improvements it will be making. It faces strong competition from the new towns in marketing its sites but Mr Bean said he was confident the riverside was an asset which would prove very attractive.

Work on some of the scheme is starting immediately. The overall programme is expected to take about eight-nine years. The £17m made available to the corporation—mainly in grants and loans—is on top of a similar sum which the Government is providing this year to the Liverpool inner city partnership for schemes in areas like Toxteth.

FT 10/7/81

SPEKE ENTERPRISE ZONE

1. Speke is one of the 11 sites in the UK which are to become enterprise zones. The area of the Speke Zone covers 340 acres, comprising 2 large vacant factories (formerly BL and Dunlop), a small English Estates estate, and part of Speke airport. Speke is about 4 miles from the centre of Liverpool.

2. The powers to create EZs are contained in section 179 and schedule 32 of the Local Government Act 1980. There has been delay in getting the Zone going because of the statutory procedures which are necessary before EZs can be set up. The process started a year ago with a formal invitation from the Secretary of State to the prospective enterprise zone authority (EZA - Liverpool) to prepare a scheme, which would set out the planning regime which the authority would agree to. In the case of Speke there were lengthy informal discussions before this outline was agreed and the precise boundary of the zone was fixed. (For later zones the processes have been expedited.)

3. The EZA has now published a draft scheme and has considered public comment on it. Although there is still some ^{slight} risk of legal challenge, the Secretary of State now proposes to lay the designation order establishing the Speke EZ area at the end of this month and the Zone will then come into operation.

4. The EZ benefits are (for a 10 year period):

- i. exemption from DLT
- ii. 100% capital allowances for commercial and industrial building
- iii. exemption from rates on commercial and industrial property
- iv. simplified planning control
- v. freedom from IDC controls
- vi. exemption from the industrial training levy
- vii. reduction in government statistical enquiries
- viii. speedy decisions on any remaining controls.

5. The airport land in the site will not be available until some infrastructure works have been completed.

6. The BL factory, comprising 1 million square feet, is likely to be taken over by an investment company: about 300,000 square feet is understood to be going to an international wine and spirit importers for use as a distribution depot. The remaining 750,000 square feet will be let

for other warehousing or manufacturing use.

7. A number of companies have expressed interest in the Dunlop factory, again comprising 1 million square feet, although we have heard that one company may take over the whole site.

8. Interest in the EIEC site, comprising a number of small factory units, has been considerable. Since the announcement of the EZ last year, almost all of the units (totalling 100,000 square feet) have been let or are in the process of being let.

DOE

9 July 1981

NOTE OF A VISIT: LIVERPOOL: 7 JULY 1981

The Home Secretary visited Liverpool on 7 July 1981 to assess the situation in the city following the disturbances of the preceding four nights. Mr. Phillips, Mr. Grant and Mr. Walters accompanied the Home Secretary throughout the visit.

2. The Home Secretary was met on his arrival in Liverpool by the Chief Constable, who updated the report he had given to the Home Secretary the previous day. The Home Secretary was given a brief tour of the scene of the disturbances, and he was able to continue his discussions with senior officers of the police, fire, and ambulance services over lunch. In addition, the Home Secretary held separate meetings with local authority representatives, the Chairman of the police authority, the Archbishop of Liverpool and the Bishop of Warrington, and a delegation led by the Chairman of Merseyside Community Relations Council. Notes of these meetings follow.

MEETING WITH LOCAL AUTHORITY REPRESENTATIVES

Present:	The Lord Mayor	(Councillor Cyril Carr)	} Liverpool City Council
	Sir Trevor Jones	(Liberal Group Leader)	
	Mr. John Hamilton	(Labour Group Leader)	
	Mr. S. Airey	(Conservative Group Leader)	
	Mr. A. J. Stocks	(Chief Executive)	
	Mr. W. I. Murray	(Solicitor)	
	Mr. R. M. Kirkham	(Solicitor's Department)	
	Councillor W.A. Wiseman	(Chairman)	} Merseyside County Council
	Councillor J. Stuart-Cole	(Leader of the County Council and Labour Group)	
	Councillor Mrs M. Simey	(Chairman of the Police Committee)	
	Councillor G. Bundred	(Deputy Chairman of the Police Committee)	
	Councillor N.C. Goldrein	(Leader of the Conservative Group)	
	Councillor F. Doran	(Deputy Leader of the Liberal Group)	
	Councillor S. T. Moss	(Conservative spokes- man on the Police Committee)	
	Mr. R. F. O'Brien	(Chief Executive)	}
	Mr. C. K. Wilson	(County Solicitor and Secretary)	

3. In a wideranging discussion, the local authority representatives made the following points:

- (i) there was general agreement that racial tensions had made at most a minor contribution to the origins of the disorders; however, it was acknowledged that there was some degree of tension between the indigenous white population, the long-established black community, and the more recent immigrant arrivals. A great deal of work had been

put into maintaining good race relations in the area, although there was some evidence that extremists were trying to exacerbate the tensions which did exist;

- (ii) it was also argued that poor housing and environmental conditions were not largely to blame. A good deal of money had been spent on improving the existing housing stock and building new accommodation; in addition, much work had gone into improving the local environment. Trees had been planted, and open spaces laid out;
- (iii) it was further said that educational provisions in the Liverpool 8 area were not poor by the standards prevailing in the city. Indeed, there was an over-provision of primary schools in view of falling school rolls. However, the proposal to close Paddington Comprehensive School had provoked a great deal of hostility in the area, and the local authority representatives urged the Home Secretary to use his influence with the Secretary of State for Education to prevent this proposal from being implemented;
- (iv) the local authority representatives were unanimous in agreeing that the underlying cause of the problems in Liverpool 8 was the extremely high level of unemployment in that district, particularly among black people. It was said that the seemingly endless succession of factory closures had undermined morale, particularly among young people, to the point where they now saw themselves as having little hope of ever obtaining employment or achieving a decent standard of life. In this context, the Government's temporary employment and training schemes were of little help - young people going into them were well aware that they had little prospect of a job afterwards. The need was for long-term measures to create worthwhile training opportunities and new jobs. Some of the local authority representatives stressed that unemployment, though important, was by no means to be seen as the whole explanation for the disturbances. Other areas of the city - for example Kirby - also suffered very high levels of unemployment;
- (v) there was general agreement that the police had done a very good job in controlling the unrest, and the local authority representatives said that they had done their best to make public their appreciation of the work which the police had done in these extremely difficult circumstances. However, it was argued that the style of policing which had been adopted in Liverpool 8 appeared to have aroused considerable local hostility. In the view of the local authority representatives, this had something to do with the use of motorised, rather than foot, patrols, and the abandonment of small local stations in favour of larger, but more remote buildings; it had perhaps more to do with what the local authority representatives described as an over-frequent use of the "sus" laws (by which they appeared to mean the use of stop and search powers rather than the suspected person

provisions themselves). Although there had probably always been a degree of hostility towards the police in the Toxteth area, a generation had certainly grown up which regarded policemen as their enemies. There was no doubt that Liverpool 8 was an area in which there were many complaints about the number of burglaries and street crimes. However, there was an urgent need to devise methods of policing which would tackle these problems without arousing undue antagonism from the local community;

- (vi) it was argued that the pattern of the rioting illustrated the nature of the alienation which was felt by the people of Liverpool 8: violence had been directed against the police and against businesses, both representing the establishment. Private homes and facilities such as community centres had come through largely unscathed;
- (vii) representatives of the County Council said that attempts by the police authority to engage senior police officers in a constructive dialogue about these problems had not so far met with an encouraging response: it was to be hoped that in the aftermath of the disorders the police would be more willing to look at the ideas of the police authority. Representatives of the City Council said that prior to the police service reorganisation, City Councillors had enjoyed a close relationship with the old City police force. The City Council greatly regretted the passing of this relationship;
- (viii) the local authority representatives acknowledged that many Government initiatives had been launched to tackle the problems of inner city decline; however, co-ordination between these initiatives was too often poor, to the extent that sometimes they pulled in opposite directions. An example of this was the creation of enterprise zones, which were likely to draw jobs away from other areas of high unemployment. Local authorities had to spend far too much time devising means of circumventing bureaucratic hurdles arising from the poor co-ordination of overlapping Government initiatives.

4. Thanking the local authority representatives for giving him their views, the Home Secretary said that he would report those relating to the social conditions in Liverpool 8 to his colleagues. He was grateful for the invaluable support which had been given to the police during the disturbances; he had made it clear that in his view there was everything to be gained from a closer dialogue between police authorities and the police service. If there had been insufficient contact in the past, the fault did not lie wholly with the police: for example, it was arguable that some of the magistrates on police authorities could usefully play a more active part in the work of the authorities. The Home Secretary added that he had been most interested to hear the views of the local authority representatives on detailed aspects of the disturbances. This had confirmed the information the Chief Constable had given him that people of all ages, and all ethnic backgrounds, had been involved, and it was particularly noteworthy that on the final night

of the disorders, the great majority of looters had been white. It was deeply disturbing to hear of the very young age of many of the rioters, and he hoped that local leaders would join him in appealing for parents to exercise their authority over these youngsters. He wholly agreed with the Lord Mayor that it was important that Liverpool should not be stigmatised as a place of violence: the problems of Toxteth were common to those of many other inner city areas, and the prospects for repairing the damage done to the community could only be hindered if undue stress was placed on the events of the preceding four days. It was important to get the message across that there was every reason to hope for a better future for the people of Liverpool 8.

MEETING WITH THE CHAIRMAN AND DEPUTY CHAIRMAN OF THE POLICE COMMITTEE

5. Mrs. Simey and Mr. Bundred later requested a short, separate meeting with the Home Secretary. Mrs. Simey said that the police authority was keen to initiate a dialogue with the Chief Constable about a proposed programme of action aimed at improving the relationship between the police and the public in Liverpool. The Chief Constable had so far cold-shouldered this approach, a response in keeping with the frosty manner in which he had chosen to deal with the police authority. A recent example had been the handing over the keys of the police headquarters to Mr. Oxford rather than to the Chairman of the County Council. Matters were not helped by the difficult relationship between the County Council and the City Council. However, Mrs. Simey felt that there was hope that the police authority could engage the Chief Constable in a dialogue about its proposals if these proposals could be seen as having the support of the Home Office. She therefore hoped that there might be some means of involving Home Office officials in discussions with the Chief Constable about the proposals.

6. In response, the Home Secretary said that he had a great deal of sympathy with the points Mrs. Simey had made: the interplay of personalities obviously added an extra dimension of difficulty to the problem. The matter would therefore require a good deal of thought before the Home Office made any move which was open to mis-interpretation. However, a useful next step might be for Mrs. Simey to visit him in London, when they could explore her ideas in greater depth.

MEETING WITH CHURCH LEADERS

7. The Home Secretary then met the Archbishop of Liverpool, the Most Reverend Derek Worlock, and the Bishop of Warrington, the Rt. Reverend Michael Henshall. They made the point that the character of the disturbances had changed substantially over the four nights of rioting. Community relations leaders had been quite successful in their attempts to get the original rioters off the streets by the final night: however, their place had been taken by a mob of mostly white youngsters, apparently including a number of outsiders, who behaved like a wild crowd of football hooligans. Throughout the week-end's disorders, it had been clear that many of the policemen had been wholly unprepared for the situation they faced; the use of foul and racist language by some officers had helped to inflame the mob. However, by the

Monday night senior officers had come to accept the advice of community leaders on the handling of the disorders, and this had helped them to contain the rioting on that night.

8. The church leaders said that they felt it was now essential for the authorities to make the right response to the disorders. There needed to be a real dialogue with community leaders, and the mass media portrayal of the disturbances as a race riot should be played down. There was a need for political will to restore some hope to the area: consideration should be given to giving a Cabinet Minister special responsibility for the problems of Merseyside. Ministers should be wary of the myth that a great deal of money had been poured into the Liverpool 8 area. It was not true that, in comparison with other local areas, Liverpool 8 had had an especially large inflow of public funds: figures could be produced to support this argument. Many people had lost a great deal of property in the rioting, and urgent steps should be taken to reassure the local population that full compensation would be paid. There was a need for both long-term measures to combat the problems of the area, and for short-term measures to tackle some of the worst aspects of local deprivation.

9. The Home Secretary thanked the church leaders for their expression of views. He took particular note of the suggestion that urgent steps should be taken to publicise the arrangements for compensation. This had been done in the case of the Brixton disorders earlier in 1981, and he would ensure that the Merseyside police authority was given every assistance to mount a similar publicity exercise.

MEETING WITH COMMUNITY RELATIONS LEADERS

Present: Mr. Wally Brown (Chairman, CRC)
Mr. Paul Sommerfeld (Community Relations Officer)
Mr. Manneh Brown
Mr. Peter Bassey
Mr. Rashid Mufti
Mr. Hugh White

10. The community relations leaders said that the principal factors underlying the recent disorders had been unemployment, poor educational facilities, racism, and the relationship between the police and the black community. The actions of the police had both triggered off the rioting and made it worse than it otherwise need have been. The Friday night disorders had started after the police had questioned a black youth suspected of stealing a motor cycle. The police had summoned assistance, and no less than eight police vehicles had arrived on the scene. By the Sunday night, the police had decided to cordon off the Toxteth area. Thus the area had been ringed with police barricades before any rioters appeared on the streets. When the youths did start to assemble on the streets, the police barricades had provided them with an obvious target. The events of the Monday night had shown that oppressive policing was not the answer to these difficulties. The lower profile adopted by the police had helped greatly to calm the situation. Another criticism levelled at the police by the community relations leaders was that they had not received proper training in the use of the CS gas cannisters. Some of these had been fired directly at

members of the crowd, who had been injured as a consequence. A member of the deputation added that some police officers who had removed their identifying numbers had been seen indulging in provocative action, including the shouting of racist slogans. There was an immediate need for a review of policing methods in places like Liverpool 8; although there had been useful discussions in the past with senior police officers, it was clear that there had been little effect on the attitudes of policemen of lower rank. But there were other issues also requiring urgent attention, for example the proposal to close Paddington Comprehensive School. Many of the problems were shared with other areas, yet the Government had not heeded previous warnings - such as the Bristol riots. The community relations leaders said they had many other points which they would want to put to the Home Secretary after further consideration, and asked if they could have a further meeting with him in due course.

11. Thanking the community relations leaders for giving him their views, the Home Secretary said that he would certainly be happy to meet them again when all concerned had had a chance to give deeper consideration to what had happened.

12. The Home Secretary's visit to Liverpool concluded with a press conference and a visit to injured police officers in hospital.



Private Office
9.7.81.

C. J. WALTERS
Private Secretary

cc Miss Kippax
Mr Boyle
Mr Cooke
Mr L P Wright
Mr Andrew
Mr Hyde
Mr Bantock
Mr Heaton
Mr Peach
Mr Phillips
Mr Hayzelden
Mr Nagler
Mr D Grant