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Prime Minister

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My ref: H/PSO/18492/81

Your ref:

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7 December 1981

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MERSEYSIDE

in Pt 2

Thank you for your letter of 20 October.

I hope I may be able to help you. It was made clear in the Prime Minister's statement of 9 October that it would be an important part of the Task Force exercise to extend, where appropriate, to other areas the benefit of experience acquired on Merseyside. Equally practice elsewhere might well be appropriate for Merseyside and I am grateful for your offer of your officials' experience. I shall certainly consult colleagues before major announcements.

As you say, the financial institutions' managers who are helping me investigate how the private sector can co-operate with the public sector in revitalising inner urban areas are concerned with UK cities generally including Belfast.

They are at present still developing their ideas on priority areas for investigation, but I very much hope that when they firm up their work programme early in the New Year it will be possible to include some action research or experimental project in Northern Ireland.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, George Younger, Nicholas Edwards and Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever

MICHAEL HESELTINE

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