



Prime Minister

4

You may wish to be
aware that Mr Heseltine
has authorised DOE officials
to talk to the Opposition
spokesman on Devolution.

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref: H/PSO/11004/82

Your ref:

15 February 1982

MCS 17/2

Dear Michael

My Secretary of State has had an approach from Mr John Prescott in his capacity as shadow appointee for Regional Affairs and Devolution. Mr Prescott is embarking on a series of visits to English Regions, Scotland and Northern Ireland in the next few months and will be having discussions with local authorities, development agencies, regional bodies etc.

Mr Prescott asked if he could talk to the "Regional Planning Executives" about the "problems of the regions".

In response my Secretary of State has decided that Mr Prescott should be invited to arrange a meeting with the Department's Regional Director in each region who will be authorised to give Mr Prescott a factual account of current issues in the region with any necessary chapter and verse. The Regional Director would not of course discuss policy developments though where there was a clear and announced Government Policy on a particular issue he would no doubt refer Mr Prescott to it.

*You are
D A Edmonds*

D A EDMONDS
Private Secretary

MFJ

Regional Policy

22 February 1982

Thank you for your letter of 15 February about Mr. John Prescott's proposed meetings with your Department's Regional Directors.

I have mentioned this to the Prime Minister, who has raised no objections to what is proposed.

MS

D.A. Edmonds, Esq.,
Department of the Environment.