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P415*

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

1 March, 1983.

Greater London Council and Metropolitan County Councils

The Prime Minister was grateful for your Secretary of State's minute of 24 February.

Timetable

The Prime Minister agrees with the timetable proposed by Mr. King. She also agrees (see the Secretary of State for Transport's minute of 28 February) that a separate announcement of the MTA may well be desirable if the Environment Secretary's timetable slips. The timing of eventual announcements will, of course, be a matter for decision by the Cabinet in due course.

Future Work

The Prime Minister hopes that your Secretary of State will try, so far as possible, to resolve any problems informally with the Ministers chiefly concerned. But if there should be issues which need collective Ministerial discussion, the Prime Minister agrees that MISC 79 would be an appropriate forum. It would naturally be for the Home Secretary to decide at the appropriate time which issues should be discussed by MISC 79.

ILEA

The Prime Minister notes your Secretary of State's view that an early decision on the future of the ILEA is necessary. She would be grateful if the Secretary of State for Education and Science would circulate a paper in the near future so that the Cabinet may reach a decision on this matter.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to Members of the Cabinet, to Gerry Spence (CPRS) and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

David Edmonds, Esq.,  
Department of the Environment.

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