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My ref: J/PSO/13317/83

Your ref:

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Dea Cecl.

Your letter of 1 July to the Lord President sought the support of Cabinet colleagues for extending the Co-operative Development Agency Bill to cover changes to the RDG scheme, and we agreed in Cabinet on 7 July to think further about this possibility when the policy on the scheme had been settled.

We have of course yet to receive the inter-departmental report which gives the detailed proposals, but, from what my officials have told me, it seems that the changes would improve the scheme considerably. I hope that we can have an early discussion about them. If colleagues are convinced that the proposals would enhance the cost effectiveness of the scheme, without an undue increase in complexity, then there is certainly a strong case for introducing the necessary legislative changes as soon as possible.

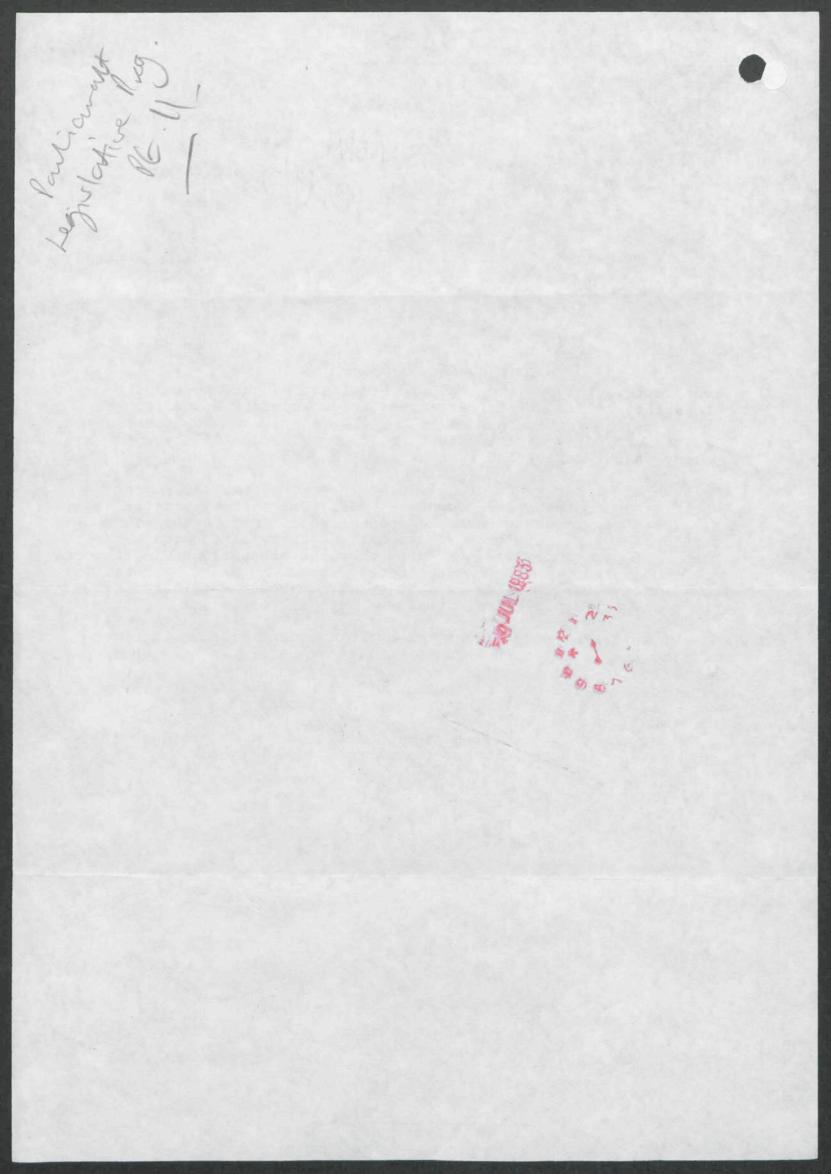
I have to leave you to judge the advantages and disadvantages of getting the legislation through Parliament before we know what the new Assisted Area map will be, but clearly the new map will be the major concern for many of those who will wish to express views not least those representing the West Midlands.

I am copying this letter to other members of the Cabinet, to John Wakeham and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

PATRICK JENKIN

Yar en

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP



CABINET OFFICE,
WHITEHALL, LONDON SWIA 2AS



Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

20 July 1983

Dear Willie,

I have seen Patrick Jenkin's letter of 18 July to Cecil Parkinson on the Co-operative Development Agency Bill.

I would have thought all this premature. Not only do we not know what the detailed proposals on Industrial Development will be; but we haven "t yet decided whether we want to keep the Co-operative Development Agency or not. I hope we don't drift into a situation where it is assumed we will keep the CDA - I regard it as a prime candidate for abolition. It would, to say the least, look very odd to have a Bill which combined improvements in the Regional Grant Scheme with the execution of the CDA.

I am copying this letter to other members of the Cabinet, to John Wakeham and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

COCKFIELD

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