

CONFIDENTIAL

MR. SHERBOURNE

MS. CAINES

LIVERPOOL

The Prime Minister has provisionally agreed to visit Liverpool on Tuesday 2 October. This plan has not been announced, and for public purposes the visit is being arranged for the Secretary of State for the Environment, and not for the Prime Minister at all.

I attach a letter from the Merseyside Task Force (part of the DOE) containing some suggestions for the programme.

The following considerations seem to me relevant:

1. The Prime Minister should not just visit show places, such as the International Garden Festival. Her visit should demonstrate a concern for the area's deep-seated problems, as well as its opportunities. (Nevertheless, the Prime Minister has disappointed the Garden Festival organisers once before, and should I think visit them at some point in the day.)
2. The Prime Minister will need to make a public statement of some significance on the Government's policy towards Liverpool, and the future of the city. For media purposes this statement might best be made in the morning. But an alternative would be to make a speech after lunch, say with the Merseyside Chamber of Commerce.
3. We should aim to fit in a Party engagement around tea-time.

With these thoughts in mind I would be inclined to recast the DOE's proposals slightly as follows:

/ Morning

Morning Albert Dock, Wavertree Technology Park + speech

Lunch On the International Garden Festival site,  
followed by a brief visit

Afternoon Housing tour - to include "black spots" as well  
as housing successes.  
Party tea.

Perhaps we could discuss these ideas soon? I need to go  
back to the DOE within the next week or so.

16 August 1984

Roy Burre



**Merseyside Task Force**

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Your Reference

Our Reference

Date 14th August 1984

David Barclay Esq.,  
Private Secretary  
10 Downing Street  
LONDON

Dear David,

VISIT TO LIVERPOOL

May I offer some points on this visit following our conversation.

A possible framework is:

Wavertree Technology Park

Albert Dock, with speech

Lunch

Liverpool black spots

Party engagement

International Garden Festival

Wavertree Technology Park

This about 20/25 minutes drive from the Airport. It comprises 60 acres of reclaimed and serviced land with at present 1 new factory to be called Plessey Crypto. The hope is to fill the site with many other factories in the Hi-Tech field. The factory is at present planned to open in late September. I understand that Plessey's are proposing to invite Mr Heseltine to open it because MoD are major customers for the output: cryptographic products.

Separately, but also at Wavertree, the Wavertree Technology Park Company (Plessey, English Estates, City Council, County Council) hope at about the same time to stage a "meet the buyers" event. Major companies in the computer/electronics field will demonstrate what equipment they buy to encourage smaller companies in, for example, the computer peripherals field. This event will help publicise the Technology Park, encourage large company/small company links, and may also lead to factory development on the park company's site.

It is therefore conceivable that the staging of both the factory opening and the "meet the buyers" event could be timed for the visit. It may well be necessary to influence Plessey's and the Park company on the management of these arrangements and this could be done through Sir John Clark as Plessey's Chairman and also as Chairman of the Park company.

Albert Dock

It should be possible to see something of the refurbishment, the new shops, the Maritime Museum (run by the County Council and therefore sensitive) and gather an audience together (eg through the Chamber of Commerce) for a speech starting, at say, 12.00/12.15.

Lunch

If a speech is given at the Albert Dock it may not be thought necessary to arrange an occasion on the scale of the Liverpool Luncheon Club. The hosts could still be Merseyside Chamber of Commerce but with a smaller number of invited guests. The venue could be a private room in one of the city centre hotels.

An alternative would be to have lunch at the UK Government Pavilion on the International Garden Festival site, hosted by the Merseyside Development Corporation.

Liverpool Black Spots

The City Council consider that their main priority is to improve housing conditions through municipal activity. They are likely to take the view that what should be seen are bad housing conditions. Housing successes could also be visited, e.g. Minster Court. Of course, it is not necessary to plan the visit simply according to the Council's priorities.

Party

It should not be difficult to arrange a suitable city centre venue for this engagement before ending the day with the IGF visit.

Such a programme would be a full one interspersed with short car journeys of very roughly ten minutes. It would only comprise Liverpool and have some emphasis on MDC activity: Albert Dock and IGF. It would be possible, if desired, to make the day less peripatetic. For example we might be able to arrange to make the morning speech at Wavertree, cutting out or shortening the Albert Dock visit (possibly going there first). Though there is advantage in ending the day with the IGF visit, lunch at the Festival site could obviously be combined with a visit to the site. Careful thought, in particular, will have to be given to the "black spots" part.

*Yours sincerely,*

*Eiv Sorenson.*

K E C SORENSEN



VEHICLE FERRY  
FROM LIVERPOOL TO  
Belfast 10 hours  
Dublin 7 hours

Wavertree Technology Park

Albert Dock

International Garden Festival

Liverpool Airport

Eastham Sands