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10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 October 1984

Vean Lord Abendoniay.

May I thank you for welcoming Patrick Jenkin and myself so hospitably to the International Garden Festival. I greatly enjoyed my visit, as I am sure over three million others have done. My own tour benefited greatly from your knowledgeable commentary as we went round.

I congratulate you, and all who have worked with you, on the marvellous achievement of making a reality of the Festival in so short a time. Not only has the project given an immediate boost to the people of Merseyside, it has launched the long process of recovery and renewal.

For me it was a happy and joy ful day, and one I shall always remember.

Tours simily

The Lord Aberconway, JP.





2 MARSHAM STREET LONDON SWIP 3EB 01-212 3434 My ref:

Your ref:

4 October 1984

Dear Andrew

PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO LIVERPOOL ON 2 OCTOBER

I enclose a copy of a note from the Merseyside Task Force which is I think self-explanatory.

You will however wish to consider whether the letter at Annex A should be sent to Councillor Hamilton as the MTF suggest. If you judge that a letter would be appropriate I would advise the deletion of the last sentence of the draft.

I doubt whether the draft at Annex A is suitable for the names at Annex B (2). I would therefore suggest a further draft letter to Lord Aberconway, Donald Forster, Leonard Epple, Barry Marsh, and Basil Bean at Annex G and a separate letter to the two Bishops at Annex H.

JOHN BALLARD
Private Secretary

Andrew Turnbull Esq

84 10/04 13:38 POI \*MERSEYSIDE\_TASK\_FORCE cc Mr. Renshaw Mr. Morrison PS/Secretary of State Prime Minister's Visit to Liverpool on 2/10/84 As requested by No. 30 I attach draft letters which the Prime Minister may wish to send to those to whom she was introduced during the course of her visit to Liverpool on 2 October. The letter at Annex A has been drafted in general terms and could be sent to the majority of those concerned - names and addresses at Annex B. I have only included the main personalities who were introduced at each point during the course of the day eg Councillor John Hamilton, Leader of Liverpool City Council, and not all members of his delegation. A separate letter is called for when writing to the individual exhibitors at the Wavertree Tech Shop Exhibition. It would seem appropriate for the Prime Minister to write to the Head of the Companies concerned rather than those running the stalls. A draft is at Annex C and a list of names and addresses at Annex D. No doubt the Prime Minister will want to write in more specific terms to Sir John Clark and Sir Leslie Young In view of their special roles at Wavertree and the IGF/Albert Dock respectively. Draft letter to Sir John is at Annex E and to Sir Leslie at Annex F. kelmassen R. K. Madders Merseyside Task Force 4 October 1984

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO THOSE PEOPLE LISTED AT ANNEX B

I was pleased to meet you during the course of my visit to Liverpool on 2 October. It was useful to see, at first hand, some aspects of the City's life and meet with those directly involved. It was a stimulating and encouraging day.

I was glad that we were able to meet over luncheon, when I visited the International Garden Festival on 2 October. The Festival itself is a fine example of what can be achieved on Merseyside with good management and leadership; it is a tribute to all concerned and let us hope an example to be followed widely.

Par I

### OBJECTIVES OF THE VISIT

To give the Prime Minister the opportunity to see at first hand

- the problems of run down housing, poor environment and the effects of a declining economy in inner Liverpool;
- ii) some of the initiatives being implemented under the Urban, Housing and Derelict Land Programmes - many in collaboration with the private sector - to tackle these problems; and
- iii) to fulfill her promise? that she would visit the International Garden Festival before it closes and see some of the other projects being sponsored by the Merseyside Development Corporation /especially the Albert Dock refurbishment7.

The PM will wish to publicly reiterate the Government's commitment to tackle the problems of the older urban areas and emphasise the central importance of working in collaboration with the private sector.

INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL LIVERPOOL 1984 BACKGROUND The Liverpool Festival is the first of its kind to be held in this country and the biggest event in this country since the Festival of Britain in 1951. The technique of staging garden festivals as a means of improving and revitalising rundown areas has been developed with great success in Europe, particularly in Germany to tackle the problems caused by wartime damage. the basic purpose of a Festival is to reclaim a large piece of urban derelict land, mount a major horticultural event, and leave a permanent legacy of high quality public park and recreational area. The idea was first considered in this country in 1979 when sixteen potential sites were identified. These were examined in detail and in September 1981 Michael Heseltine invited the Merseyside Development Corporation to mount the first festival. The timetable allowed just over 2½ years for the reclamation, design and construction of the Festival, less than half the period usually allowed for Continental Festivals. THE SITE The site chosen for the Festival was part of a 250 acre stretch of disused and severely degraded land at Riverside on the banks of the River Mersey. The site was chosen because of its proximity to the city centre and the excellent location close to the main road and rail links. The existing station at St Michaels and the airport at Speke were also considerable advantages. An important factor was the setting of the site with its fine views over the River Mersey. The site included an abandoned and silted dock, disused oil storage tanks and a municipal refuse tip. The reclamation programme which began in December 1981 was one of the largest urban

reclamation schemes ever undertaken in this country. Among the problems that had to be overcome were the removal of two large oil jetties, the movement of over 3 million cubic feet of material and the control and extraction of methane produced by decaying material on the former tip. FESTIVAL CONSTRUCTION AND DESIGN 10. Once the reclamation work was substantially underway the task of constructing the actual 125 acres of the Festival bagan. Precommencement works started in October 1982 and construction began in January 1983. The co-ordination of over 200 packages of work carried out by 50 different firms was handled by the management contractors, Norwest Holst Projects Ltd. Major construction works involved the movement of six and a half million tons of material on to the site and included the construction of the River Esplanade, the arena, theatres and various buildings including the Festival Hall. One and a half miles of railway had to be laid and seven miles of footpaths, walkways and aqueducts provided. The design of the Festival was handled by a team of consultants led by Design Co-ordinator Rodney Beaumont of William Gillespie and Partners. Their task was to produce a design to meet the needs of both the Festival and its after uses and to incorporate the plan of all the countries and organisations who wished to be represented in the Festival. FESTIVAL FEATURES The Festival consists of six main elements: - The Esplanade which fulfills two roles. It is a pleasant place to walk or sit and enjoy the seafront entertainments. It is also a vital link in a permanent riverside walk which will eventually extend 42 miles from Otterspool Promenade to the Pier Head in the City Centre.

- 5 -GOVERNMENT ROLE 20. Garden Festivals are just one of the main initiatives that have been introduced by the Government to regenerate older urban areas. 21. When Michael Heseltine, who was already aware of the success of European festivals, was appointed Secretary of State in 1979 approaches made to the Department by the British Association of Landscape Industries, supported by the Joint Council for Landscape Industries, found a ready response. Lord Bellwin met the two organisations and subsequently visited the Kassel show as part of the Department's study of garden festival experience in Europe. The Department then invited urban local authorities to consider staging a festival. Sixteen sites were identified from this first approach and these were quickly sifted down to two, in Liverpool and Stoke. The Liverpool site was within the area of the MDC which was established by the Government in March 1981 to tackle the wider problems of derelict dockland on both sides of the Mersey. In the same month studies of the two sites were commissioned by the Department. The studies were completed within six months and in September 1981 Michael Heseltine invited the MDC to mount the first Festival. 23. Since then the Department has continued to take a keen interest in ensuring the success of this first festival, not least by providing the grant-in-aid support to the MDC. The Department has been represented throughout by officials on the Festival Executive Committee which has supervised all the preparations for the Festival. VISITOR NUMBERS It was predicted that 3 million visitors would attend the Festival; this target was in fact reached on 18th September, and the final number will be well in excess of this by the time the Festival closes on 14th October.

- 6 -FUTURE FESTIVALS The next Garden Festival will be held in Stoke on Trent in 1986. The festival is being financed jointly by the Department of the Environment and the two local authorities, City of Stoke on Trent and Staffordshire County Council. There are three possible sites for the 1989 Festival, Gateshead, Glasgow and Swansea, currently the subject of detailed feasibility studies.

#### FUTURE OF THE GARDEN FESTIVAL SITE

The success of the Festival has led to a surge of feeling from local people, now joined by the City and County Councils, that the Festival should be retained. This is not practical; exhibits, hired equipment etc have to be returned, there are commitments to developers, and there would be substantial costs falling on the public sector instead of receipts from the disposal of land. MDC are therefore pressing ahead, with the encouragement of the Secretary of State, in marketing to housebuilders and other developers the northern half of the site in line with the long term proposals for the area. At the same time MDC are seeking to retain flexibility in dismantling the Festival, with the objective of preserving some of the best gardens for opening to the public next summer at least, to the extent that this is compatible with meeting the demand for development.

It has always been the intention that the southern half of the site, including the Festival Hall and the arena, should be retained as a permanent public leisure and recreational facility. MDC and the then Liberal controlled City Council signed an agreement in November 1982 whereby the Council would take on responsibility for this area early in 1985, converting the Festival Hall to a sports hall. However, the present City Council have made it clear that they do not regard this as a high priority. At a meeting with MDC and DOE officials on 4 September Councillor Byrne, the Chairman of the Council's Policy and Finance Committee, stated that the Council would require extra capital and revenue allocations sufficient to meet the great majority of their own priorities in the City before they would consider taking on the Festival site. As decisions on their 1985/86, allocations will not be made before the end of the year, the City's attitude is leading to damaging uncertainty. The Secretary of State therefore issued a statement on 6 September effectively setting the City Council a deadline of the end of the year to decide whether they would accept their portion of the Festival site. This was misinterpreted, probably wilfully, by City Council leaders as a refusal to grant them the resources they had requested. In fact, discussions on Liverpool's allocations for next year are continuing and will be announced, along with those for all other local authorities, later in the year. /IN CONFIDENCE: It is extremely unlikely that Liverpool's allocations will be sufficient to satisfy Councillor Byrne's criterion. If Liverpool do fail to honour their commitment to take on the site, MDC could continue to maintain it in the short term while seeking private sector involvement in a leisure-oriented development/.

#### TATE OF THE NORTH

The Tate Gallery have proposed the establishemtn of a gallery in part of the Albert Dock warehouses. Discussions have taken place on possible sources of funding of this scheme. While the Tate intend to raise part of the cost from private sources, substantial public sector funding would also be required. MDC have the financial powers to contribute to a development of this nature, and they are now engaged in detailed discussions with the Tate on the options. MDC will then decide whether they wish to give financial support to the scheme, and if so, whether they accord it sufficient priority to undertake it within their existing expenditure allocations. The project will need the approval of DOE and Treasury. /IN CONFIDENCE: Informal indications are that MDC will support the project within their expenditure allocations.

#### POSSIBLE EXTENSION OF THE MDC AREA

MDC's existing area is relatively small (865 acres compared to the 8 square miles of the London Docklands Development Corporation). Since MDC's designation, the operations of the Port of Liverpool have continued to contract, and there is now a substantial disused area in the Liverpool North Docks. It will be important to avoid this area falling into dereliction,

as occurred with the South Docks in the 1970s. One way of avoiding this would be to give MDC the responsibility for this area to undertake the necessary maintenance and work towards future development. Reclamation and development would almost certainly be phased over a longer period and with much lower public expenditure than in the South Docks area. The issue will shortly be the subject of a submission to DOE Ministers.

### WIRRAL LAND

There is a long-running dispute between MDC and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company over the terms on which MDC might acquire MDHC land in the Wirral part of MDC's area. This dispute has meant that MDC have made comparatively little progress there. The essence of the dispute is that MDC wish to acquire the freehold, while MDHC are prepared to grant only a leasehold interest. The two parties are now considering a proposed compromise involving land exchange.

VISIT TO INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL, 2 OCTOBER 1.00 Arrive Dingle Lane entrance. Walk to UK Government Pavilion Gardeners Bazaar 32 chalet style shops grouped around colourful canopied area. Permanent 'shops' include official souvenirs as well as wide range of commercial units with horticultural themes or connections. International Pavilion 350 square metres under glass for temperate, semi tropical and tropical displays. Includes exhibits from various countries including Singapore, Thailand and Australia as well as the City of Liverpool. Sponsored by Robinsons of Winchester and Pilkingtons. INTERNATIONAL GARDENS Holland Distinguished by glass houses and modern wind power generator. Concentrates on Dutch nursery business with close involvement of commercial interests. Federal Republic of Germany The first international garden to be undertaken on the site. A walled garden with a brick footpath and a central pond. Italy A formal Italian renaissance design featuring two Lunch in UK Government Pavilion.

smaller gardens and copies of fountain and temple from Rome.

Designed by Francis Machin with a landscape setting by Dame Sylvia Crowe featuring work by British sculptors. The greater part of the pavilion contains an exhibition entitled "Changing Places", the theme being the manipulation of landscape. The exhibition has been designed by Robin Wade Design Associates for the COI. The plant material within the pavilion is provided from the Royal Parks.

2.30 Walk to Fulwood Station via:

Model Forest A model forest built by the Forestry Commission at model railway scale representing an actual landscape of 7 square kilometres. Based on a section of the Dyfi Forest in North Wales, it contains over 4 million tiny trees. Homes and Gardens A range of houses built by leading private companies - Barratt, Broseley Homes, Norwest Holst, Wimpey and Abbey National. After the Festival closes the houses will remain and form the first phase of the residential development planned for this part of the site.

TRAIN TO FESTIVAL HALL

The <u>Miniature Railway</u> is a 15" gauge using engines hired from the Romney Hythe and Dymchurch railway and coaches specially built and sponsored by National Westminster Bank.

The route includes views of:

Japanese Garden A strolling landscape garden typical of the Edo Era (17th Century). Main features include hill, stream and pond representing mountains, valleys and lakes. include an 'azumaja' for resting and viewing the pond. Chinese Garden The only Royal Garden to be constructed outside China, features replicas of two ancient imperial buildings: the Quin Quan corridor and the Zhen Buan pavilion. pagoda built from sections shipped over from China and constructed by Chinese workmen using traditional methods. Indian Garden A miniature example of a Mogul Garden in three terraces with a central water feature cascading down. Water Feature A system of water and rocks constructed to represent the various stages of a river system. Designed by Derek Lovejoy and Partners after a national competition, it is 500 metres long and holds 10,000 cubic metres of fresh water.

FESTIVAL HALL

Exhibition hall and centre-piece of the Festival. Designed by Arup Associates of London, winners of a national competition. Steel vaulted superstructure clad with translucent polycarbonate; provides 80,000 sq ft of column-free floorspace. The two half-domes of the building feature the indoor shows. The central hall is largely devoted to permanent exhibitions including:

- British Telecom. An electronic office for the Festival.
- General Motors. Sponsors of the Hall.
- Post Office. Special features including urban renewal stamps.
- MDC exhibition of plans and projects.

  Walk (or train if wet) to Herculaneum exit via:

  INTERNATIONAL THEME GARDENS Including

  Great Britain Designed by Ray Bird winner of a design competition sponsored by the Horticultural Trades Association to 'illustrate the national character and build upon the

British garden tradition.' Over 300 different kinds of plants used in a series of inter-connecting spaces showing the variety of British gardens. Includes a gazebo giving panoramic views of the site towards the river.

<u>Australia</u> Represents the range of Australian scenery from arid deserts to lush coastal vegetation. Recordings of native animals are played on site.

Belgium A circular bedding area dominated by a slatted rope swing bridge.

<u>Spain</u> Features an olive grove bounded by a dry stone wall.

<u>Greece</u> A symbolic garden drawing parallels between living plants and those from mythology.

Egypt Of Pharonic design including a replica of the Temple of Isis.

NATIONAL THEME GARDENS including

Scottish Garden Miniature highland landscape including woodland and upland locks. Includes pavilion displaying Scottish crafts, tourism etc. Financial support from Scottish Development Agency and local authorities.

<u>Victorian Garden</u> An attempt to evoke the atmosphere of a small pleasance of the sort which evolved in the more prosperous industrial towns during late Victorian times. Sponsored by Unilever.

Rose Garden A joint effort by the Royal National Rose Society and the Rose Growers Association including more than 5,000 roses. Sponsored by the Post Office.

Granada Television A garden studio from which numerous broadcasts have been made including the Gardener's Calendar Roadshow a regular feature throughout the summer.

Heather and Conifer Garden Designed and stocked by Blooms Nurseries one of the leading commercial growers who have done much to popularise those types of plants.

'Typhoo Tug' One of the many play areas around the Festival site to accommodate the large number of younger visitors. Sponsored by Cadbury Typhoo.

3.55 Depart by car from Herculaneum entrance for Albert Dock

ANNEX 4 LUNCH AT THE INTERNATIONAL GARDEN FESTIVAL Chairman of MDC until the end of October. Sir Leslie Young He succeeded Sir Frank Price as Chairman of the British Waterways Board on 1 July this year. A successful Merseyside businessman, Chairman of J Bibby & Sons. Mr Donald Forster Will succeed Sir Leslie Young as Chairman of MDC from 1 November. Currently Chairman of Runcorn and Warrington Development Corporation, Chairman and Managing Director of the family textile firm in Leigh, Lancs. Lord Aberconway Commissioner General for the Festival. Government's representative in dealings with other countries. Long-serving President of the Royal Horticultural Society. Chief Executive of MDC. Previously General Basil Bean Manager of Northampton New Town. Has shouldered the major organisational burden of the Festival. Alfred Stocks, Chief Executive since 1973 and immediate past-President of the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives. Joined Liverpool City in 1951, Chief Executive appointed Deputy Town Clerk in 1969. Wise and articulate, but in the Town Clerk tradition, not a Chief Executive. Age 58, Chairman and Chief Executive, Plessey plc, Sir John Clark since 1970. Educated Harrow and Cambridge. been associated with Plessey since 1949 and been involved with various subsidiaries within the group. Director Banque Nationale de Paris, Vice President of Institute of Work Managers and Engineering Employers Federation. Archbishop of Most Reverend Derek John Harford Warlock (64). Liverpool (RC) Archbishop of Liverpool since 1976. Educated St Edmunds College, Ware, Herts and ordained RC priest 1944. Private Secretary to Archbishop of Westminster 1945-64. Bishop of Portsmouth 1965-76. Member of the Synod Council 1976-77 and of the Holy See's Council and Committee for the Family from 1977-83. English delegate to the International Synod of Bishops 1974,77,80 and Bishop of Rt Reverend David Stuart Sheppard (55) Bishop of Liverpool Liverpool since 1975. Educated Sherborne; Cambridge (MA) Ridley Hall Theological College. County cricketer with Sussex 1947-62 (Captain 1953). Played 22 times for England 1950-63 (Captain

1954). Warden Mayflower Family Centre Canning Town 1957-69 Bishop Suffragan of Woolwich 1969-75. Chairman and founder of the Arrowcroft Group. Leonard V. Eppel FSVA Mr. Eppel has been a well known figure in the property world for 30 years. The Arrowcroft Group specialise in town centre developments in areas of architectural sensitivity. Barry Marsh New Chairman of Merseyside Chamber of Commerce and senior partner in Mace & Jones (Solicitors) Liverpool. Specialist in industrial and commercial law and former lecturer at Liverpool University. Member of Solicitors Disciplinary Tribunal. Ray O'Brien Chief Executive Merseyside County Council and Cllr Shaw the County Chairman were also invited to attend but we are told they will have to decline because of Council business. Cllr Hugh Dalton, Chairman of Liverpool City Council, has also been invited to the lunch but it is not yet known whether he will attend.

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### risit to Liverpool on 2 October 1984

Guest list for lunch at the British Pavilion, International Garden Festival Site

1. Sir Leslie Young.

7. Ian Pearce

10. Basil Bean

11. Ray O'Brien

12. Alfred Stocks

17 Banie March

8. Cllr. Ben Shaw

9. Cllr. Hugh Dalton

	Corporation
2. Lord Aberconway	- Commissioner General of the IGF (the Queen's representative)
3. The Most Reverend Derek Warlock	- Roman Catholic Archbishop of Liverpobl
	P. 마스트, 20 보다면 12 시네트 1981

- 4. The Rt Reverend David Sheppard Anglican Bishop of Liverpool
- 5. Donald Forster Chairman (designate), Merseyside
  Development Corporation
- 6. Sir John Clark Chairman, Plessey p.l.c.
  Chairman, Wavertree Technology Park
  Company
  - Chairman, Arrowcroft (developers of Albert Dock)
    - Chairman, Merseyside County Council
    - Chairman, Liverpool City Council

- Chairman, Merseyside Development

- Chief Executive, Merseyside Development Corporation
- Chief Executive, Merseyside County Council
- Chief Executive, Liverpool City Council
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# Visit to Liverpool on 2 October 1984

### PROGRAMME:

09.30	Arrive Speke Airport
10.00	Arrive Grafton Crescent Housing Co-operative at start of tour of housing sites in Liverpool
11.10	Finish of tour at Minster Court. Depart for
11.25	Wavertree Technology Park
11.40	Speech/Open "Meet the Buyers" event
11.55	Press facility
12.10	Depart for
12.30	Graeme House, Derby Square (creet Tash Face Stoll a ownival)
	a. possible (15 min) meeting with (2) representatives of the City Council
P	b. 15/30 min. meeting with the Archbishop and Bishop of Liverpool
13.00	Depart for
13.30	International Garden Festival site (Dingle Lane entrance)
	Lunch at the British Pavilion . (Possible Companie with Bistope
14.30	Tour of IGF site
15.45	Depart for
16.00	Albert Dock
16.15	Depart for
16.45	Huyton Park Conservative Club (party engagement)

Local radio