



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

8 October 1984

My dear Lord Bishop.

I was glad that we were able to exchange a few words before luncheon when I visited the International Garden Festival on 2 October. I do, as you know, share your concern for the future of Liverpool. Though, in the course of my visit, I saw at first hand some of the problems of the City, I also saw a number of most encouraging developments.

I appreciate greatly your work in helping the City to tackle these problems and in helping it to build a new future.

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

The Right Reverend The Lord Bishop of Liverpool

JL



File

2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 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.

Your sincerely

John Ballard

JOHN BALLARD
Private Secretary

Andrew Turnbull Esq

2 of 11

cc Mr. Renshaw
Mr. Morrison

PS/Secretary of State

Prime Minister's Visit to Liverpool on 2/10/84

As requested by No. 10 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.

R. K. Madders

R. K. Madders
Merseyside Task Force
4 October 1984

~~and appreciate greatly your~~

DRAFT LETTER FOR THE PRIME MINISTER TO SEND TO THE MOST REV.
DEREK WARLOCK AND THE RT REV DAVID SHEPHERD

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I was glad that we were able to exchange a few words before luncheon when I visited the International Garden Festival on 2 October. I do, as you know, share your concern for the future of Liverpool. *Though in the course of my visit I saw at first hand some of the problems of the city, I also saw a number of most encouraging developments.*

I appreciate greatly the work you do in helping the city tackle ^{these} problems and in helping it build a new future.

124 OCT 1994

11 10 9 8 7 6 5 4 3 2 1
L O S

N.B There is now no
separate meeting. You
will be able to talk to
them over lunch.

9)
Part VI

MEETING WITH BISHOPS

The Prime Minister will recall meeting the Bishop and Archbishop of Liverpool on 1st February this year for a private discussion about Merseyside.

The Bishop referred to people in the inner-city parishes who felt alienated, had little part in deciding their own destiny, and who felt also that unemployment was permanent and would not be eased by national efforts. The Bishop himself said that Government schemes such as YTS and the Community Programme were dwarfed by the scale of the problem.

The Archbishop added his dismay that the city council were taking over housing plans being developed on a self help basis. [The Prime Minister will see an example of a successful housing co-operative scheme in the early part of the day.]

The Archbishop also praised the County Council as an able and unifying force which people did not wish to see abolished. Joint Boards involving district councils would find it hard to rise above sectarian interests.

The Archbishop also welcomed the (then) prospect of a Freeport as an economic benefit and a vote of confidence.

The Prime Minister expressed concern about the doctrinaire nature of the city council's decisions and said that support for the County was really a measure of the city's failure to take a proper lead in the area.

The Prime Minister added that even if Merseyside had to live with unemployment for the foreseeable future much could and should be done to improve the physical environment.



The Bishop later wrote a personal letter to the Secretary of State and described movingly the plight of parishioners facing long term unemployment. He described also a week-end forum held in February when the Archbishop of Canterbury's Commission on Urban Priority Areas visited Merseyside. The forum stressed again:

the financial and social problems of unemployment;
the problems of funding voluntary bodies;
the effects on those left behind of the 'mobility of the self confident';
the need to press harder for industry to invest in Merseyside;
the need, (despite industry's reduced requirement for manpower) for people to be able to contribute to society and to receive a reasonable wage for it.

The Prime Minister and Secretary of State wrote expressing their deep concern and their gratitude to the Bishop for providing an insight into Merseysiders' personal problems.



Toxteth

1. The Chief Constable's continuing community policing experiment has done a great deal to improve relations between the police and the local black community. The scale of housing improvement in the area is considerable and better training schemes for local young people have been set up under YTS. The rate of unemployment remains high, particularly for younger people, and that represents an underlying and continuing cause for concern. There is no current evidence, however, that a further severe breakdown in law and order can be expected.

Local Government

2. The pressure to retain the County derives from the view that Merseyside's longstanding economic problems mean that one body is required to speak for Merseyside and the County fulfils that role. Second, there is local concern about the approach of Liverpool City Council and whether the necessary co-operation would be achieved at District level given Liverpool's extreme political stance.

Government Assistance to Merseyside

3. Substantial support is being given to the area to make it attractive to investors. Much effort is being devoted to the removal of eyesores, regenerating derelict land, refurbishment of buildings, and to encourage private investment.

Education

4. Statutory proposals for rationalising county secondary schools have been approved by the Secretary of State. These proposals reduce the number of schools (most of which are comprehensive) from 27 to 18. The proposed schools would be 11-18 neighbourhood comprehensives. The proposals would secure significant revenue savings. There is considerable local controversy about these proposals on the grounds that good schools would not be preserved, parental choice would be limited, and that there would be insufficient provision for single sex education.

The proposals are to come into effect next September.

Manpower Services Commission: Community Programme

5. The Bishop is Chairman of the MSC Area Board which advises the MSC on proposed projects.

The national C.P. budget for 1984/85 is £571.2 Million. Locally, quality proposals currently seem to be matching the allocated provisions. However, the situation is fluid and it may not be too surprising to discover demand outstripping available places.



Industrial Image

6. Whilst there are very many Merseyside companies where industrial relations and productivity are good, great efforts still have to be made before Merseyside overcomes what is its perceived image to many outside the area.

At the present time an illegal sit-in in defiance of a High Court ruling of the only 2 vessels left at Cammell Laird has brought the shipyard to a standstill and is quite damaging its prospects of attracting new work.

During the recent disputes in the docks Liverpool was brought to a standstill on each occasion and there are already reports of trade being lost to those ports which managed to operate normally. This loss of trade will do much to damage the position of the Mersey Docks and Harbour Co which with the aid of Government assistance is once again trading profitably.

Coal Dispute

7. On 23 September the Archbishop said that the dispute should not be seen as the intransigence of 2 men but as a symptom of the failure of society to come to terms with the post industrial age. He referred to the effects on whole communities of industries judged no longer effective or economic. The Church has a responsibility to try to create an atmosphere in which reconciliation can take place.

MEETING WITH ARCHBISHOP AND BISHOP

ARCHBISHOP OF LIVERPOOL (RC)

Most Reverend Derek John Horford Warlock (64)

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 83.

BISHOP OF LIVERPOOL

Rt Reverend David Stuart Sheppard (55) Bishop of 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