



2 MARSHAM STREET
LONDON SW1P 3EB

My ref:

Your ref:

6 March 1981

Dear Tim

David Thank you for your letter of 5 March to Edmonds which, amongst other things, asked us for a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send in response to Sir Trevor Jones' letter of 23 February.

I now attach a draft.

We shall, of course, be coming back to you next week on other ideas for Merseyside.

Yours truly
J Jacobs

J JACOBS
Private Secretary

Tim Lankester Esq
No 10

LETTER TO COUNCILLOR SIR TREVOR JONES FROM THE PRIME MINISTER

11 Thank you for your letter of 23 February. I ^{have been kept fully informed} am fully in the picture ~~about the Tate and Lyle refinery closure.~~ It is a severe blow to Merseyside and it is vital that the initiatives the Government are taking on Merseyside should proceed as quickly as possible.

A The Merseyside Development Corporation will come formally into being, ~~subject to Parliamentary procedures, very shortly.~~ Discussions have been held between the Corporation and the Mersey Docks and Harbour Company on land acquisition, and also with other public bodies within the proposed MDC area. These are nearly complete and the necessary Parliamentary Orders are being prepared. The Corporation's development strategy and proposed projects have been prepared and will be quickly assessed. ~~The Corporation's budget has clearly been announced, The Corporation are~~ ^{it is already} undertaking engineering studies in several areas, and ^{it is} are in preliminary discussion with potential developers. A

~~On~~ the Albert Dock, I know of the developer's proposals and you will understand the need to follow listed building inquiry procedures. The public inquiry was postponed from 21 October to 13 January at the developer's request. Michael Heseltine fully recognises the need for a speedy decision.

^{As regards the} On the Enterprise ~~Zone~~, I understand that Tom King wrote to you on 2 March and that your Council is meeting to consider the outstanding issues very shortly. I hope you will agree that an Enterprise ~~Zone~~ at Speke will make a vital contribution to a much needed revival of business activity, and that you will be able to agree with the points made by Tom King. As soon as ~~such~~ agreement is reached, this ~~coming~~ week I hope, a formal invitation to prepare an Enterprise ~~Zone~~ scheme will be sent to your Council and a start made on the formal procedures.