



FCS/86/117

PARLIAMENTARY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR THE ENVIRONMENT

Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre

1. Thank you for your letter of 15 April in which you outlined the booking policy you propose for the new Conference Centre.
2. I agree that steps should be taken to ensure that as full use as possible should be made of the Centre. It is clearly important that the private sector should be encouraged to look to it as a major new facility in the capital. I also agree that it will be necessary, for security and other reasons, to exclude certain groups should they apply to use the Conference Centre. I have no suggestions for additions to the categories you mention.
3. There could, of course, be some officially organised conferences which might attract demonstrations or breaches of the peace. I do not think that it would be right to rule out a priori such conferences on these grounds.
4. I am sending copies of this minute to the Prime Minister, the Lord President of the Council, the Home Secretary, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Secretary of State for Defence, the Chief Secretary and Sir Robert Armstrong.


(GEOFFREY HOWE)

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

1 May 1986

CC/86
1. CDP - to see.
2. Cf to p.c.

GOVT BUILDINGS : Conference Centre PT2



cc/BA



Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

Sir George Young Bt MP
 Parliamentary Under Secretary of State
 Department of the Environment
 2 Marsham Street
 London
 SW1P 3EB

ODP
 22/4

22 April 1986

Dear George,

NEW CONFERENCE CENTRE BOOKINGS

Thank you for sending me a copy of your letter of 15 April to Geoffrey Howe about the new Conference Centre. ^{at trap}

As you will know from my letter of 23 October 1985 to Kenneth Baker, I am most anxious to see all reasonable steps taken to maximise the Centre's income and to prevent its being a continuing drain on the Exchequer. I am sure it is right, therefore, that exclusions are kept to an absolute minimum. I agree that sometimes a line will have to be drawn. But I hope that in interpreting category (a) the test of dignity will not be applied too restrictively.

I am copying this letter to the Prime Minister, Willie Whitelaw, Geoffrey Howe, Douglas Hurd, Norman Tebbit, George Younger and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Yours ever,

JM

JOHN MacGREGOR

GOVT BUILDING : INT. CONFERENCE CENTRE PT 2

