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MR. WICKS

The Secretary of State for the Environment this afternoon met the Prime Minister to express his dissatisfaction about the proposal that Mr. Clarke should take over responsibility for co-ordinating policy and presentation on the inner cities. This would be seen as a setback for himself and the DOE, and it would also cause difficulty because Mr. Clarke would have responsibility without authority over resources. Mr Ridley proposed that responsibility for the Urban Programme should be transferred from DOE to DTI.

The Prime Minister reassured Mr. Ridley that there was no intention of changing policy responsibilities, and it was important that the Urban Programme should remain in DOE. Mr. Clarke would work very much under her direction.

It was agreed that a sentence should be added to the proposed terms of reference (and presumably also to the Press Notice) along the lines:

- 2 There is no change in the Departmental responsibilities of Ministers with programmes which are involved in inner city regeneration. Departmental Ministers will remain the primary point of contact for business interests and others.*

JN

David Norgrove

26 November 1987

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