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SUBJECT CC MASTER

10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

10 February 1988

Dear Peter,

It may be helpful to record the main action points arising from the Prime Minister's meeting this afternoon on the inner cities document to be launched on 7 March. The Prime Minister asked the Chancellor of the Duchy to undertake co-ordination of the follow-up on all aspects with the support of the Cabinet Office Inner Cities Unit.

First, a fundamental re-think was needed of the design of the document. The need was for a clear bold approach.

Second, major work was required on the present text of the document. Although a major re-launch was planned for 7 March the document should have a life of say six months so that it retained its relevance during the subsequent regional road shows. An upbeat presentation was required which highlighted the key essentials on the nature of inner city problems and of the action - in both the public and private sectors - already taken, in hand and now planned. It was also important to widen the scope of the document to cover all aspects of inner city action; for example material was needed on the quality of life including sport and the arts as well as crime prevention. The Prime Minister's Private Office would take forward the work on the introduction to the document. The Prime Minister has also concluded that the document should include brief sections summarising the action in hand and planned in Scotland and Wales; these could then be supplemented by separate more detailed announcements.

Third, it was important to maximise the number of announcements of new inner city action points on 7 March. There should be a list of ten or twelve items. The main candidates were:

1. streamlining urban grants in the City Grant
2. new UDCs
3. safer cities
4. new roads

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5. English Estates managed work space
6. the Elevenco initiative
7. land sales
8. better sport and other leisure facilities
9. an education initiative, for example a new City Technology College or the School/Business Compact
10. improved targeting of DE/MSD services
11. housing and enterprise
12. new City Action Teams

These should be covered by a co-ordinated set of press releases all under the common logo of "Action for Cities - March 1988". The Cabinet Office Unit should circulate the proposed format, and Departments responsible for individual items should submit first drafts of press releases to the Cabinet Office by Friday 12 February. A single summary press release should also be prepared. It was for consideration whether the various press releases might be included in folders on the inside covers of the main Action for Cities document.

Fourth, during the weeks after the 7 March launch there would be a series of regional road shows for which the Area Profiles already prepared would be particularly helpful. But further consideration should also be given to Ministerial visits to the regions on the afternoon of 7 March; a programme of perhaps four or five visits should be put together focusing on those areas benefiting from major aspects of the 7 March action points. A separate press notice would need to be prepared covering each of these regional visits.

Fifth, further consideration should also be given to the format of the 7 March press conference at the QE2 Conference Centre. But the general framework would be an opening short presentation by the Prime Minister followed by 1½-2 minute presentations by a number of other Ministers focusing on key aspects of the new announcements.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to members of E(UP), to the Minister for the Arts and to Sir Robin Butler.

Yours,
P.G.

(PAUL GRAY)

Peter Smith, Esq.,
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster's Office.

From: THE PRIVATE SECRETARY
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HOME OFFICE
QUEEN ANNE'S GATE
LONDON SW1H 9AT

12 February 1988

Dear Paul,

INNER CITIES: SAFER CITIES

The Home Secretary has seen your letter of 10 February recording the discussion chaired by the Prime Minister on the launch of the inner cities document. He agrees that the document should be widened to include all aspects of inner city action, including the quality of life, sport and the arts. He has asked me to say, however, that he would not wish these matters to be dealt with as part of the section of the document dealing with the 'Safer Cities' initiative, which he considers should stand alone. To do otherwise would, he believes, detract from the message that we need to get across - particularly to the police and the local authorities - that 'Safer Cities' is a new, carefully prepared and precisely targetted initiative in the Government's fight against crime.

I am copying this letter to the recipients of yours.

*Yours sincerely
Nick*

N C SANDERSON

Paul Gray, Esq

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