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CONFIDENTIAL

Prime Minister (2)

To note

AT 19/7



PRIME MINISTER

Direct Elections to ILEA

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At the meeting of the Cabinet on 12 July I was invited to bring together a group of Ministers to reach decisions, in the light of the Cabinet's discussion, on the timing of the first elections for the directly elected inner London education authority (the new ILEA).

2. It was at that time thought that a decision had to be reached as a matter of urgency because I had undertaken to announce the date of the elections at the Report Stage of the Local Government (Interim Provisions) Bill in the House of Lords on Monday 16 July. On reflection, it seemed unwise to rush such an important decision and I was able to persuade Lord Alport, to whom I had given the undertaking in the House of Lords, that the whole matter was best dealt with in the context of the main abolition Bill. There seems no need to mention a specific date in the paper which Patrick Jenkin is publishing next week; that is concerned with the destination of services under the abolition proposals, and will simply state that a directly elected body will on 1 April 1986 take over the provision of education in inner London.

3. I shall now hold a meeting early next week and will then put a recommendation to you.

4. I am sending copies of this minute to Leon Brittan, Keith Joseph, Patrick Jenkin, Peter Rees, John Wakeham, Michael Havers, Irwin Bellwin, John Gummer and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Privy Council Office
18 July 1984

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File *SM*

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

20 July 1984

Direct Elections to ILEA

The Prime Minister has seen and noted the Lord President's minute of 18 July. She looks forward to receiving a recommendation in due course.

I am sending copies of this letter to Hugh Taylor (Home Office), Elizabeth Hodgkinson (DES), John Ballard (Department of the Environment), John Gieve (Chief Secretary's Office), Murdo McLean (Chief Whip's Office), Henry Steel (Attorney General's Office), Mike Bailey (Department of the Environment), Brian McCarthy (Department of Employment) and Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

Andrew Turnbull

Miss Janet Lewis-Jones
Lord President's Office

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