

PRIME MINISTER

SAINSBURY GROUP MEETING

Tomorrow's meeting with the Sainsbury Group takes place at your suggestion, made at the conclusion of the one which took place in April this year. It offers the opportunity not simply of ensuring that the Sainsbury Group's original proposals are being followed up vigorously wherever possible, but also of pressing DOE Ministers more generally to speed up and simplify the planning process, by registering directly with them your personal concerns about it. You made clear at the April meeting that the DOE report drawn up for it should be seen as an interim document.

Half an hour is set aside for the Ministerial pre-meeting, from 0945 to 1015. The meeting with the Sainsbury Group itself will probably not need to go on for more than an hour and a half, up to 1145. You have Mr Shultz at 1200.

The attached briefing consists of:

Flag A - a handling note and progress report from Hartley Booth. This provides a useful summary of where the discussions have got to and identifies some of the weak spots in the DOE report.

Flag B - the Environment Secretary's report and briefing for the meeting. Mr Baker thinks the Sainsbury Group are well pleased with the progress which has been made. He flags up the subjects you may like to discuss at the meeting.

Flag C - a note from the Employment Secretary arguing that the Sainsbury Group discussions must not be allowed to lose momentum.

*Flag G - a late submission from DTI, for discussion possibly at the pre-meeting.*

A number of other papers are attached, including the Deregulation White Paper (Flag D), a worrying note from the



Policy Unit on surplus land sales (Flag E) and a fuller report from the DOE (Flag F). You do not need to look at these unless you wish to.

At the pre-meeting you will need to discuss:

- (i) The issues you will wish the Sainsbury Group meeting itself to focus on. (The key points I think are the appeals procedure itself, the reform of use clauses, structure plans and unused land.)
- (ii) The future of the Group. You will wish to go along with Lord Young's view that the Group's work is not yet complete. You believe there is more to be done and you would aim to meet the Group again, after the Secretary of State's meeting, in about a year's time.

One point to note. Idris Pearce wrote to you with his proposals for encouraging the speedier disposal of unused public land. You expressed great interest in his paper, and said the DOE now have the task of conducting a policy for disposing of surplus land which is both vigorous and orderly. You have also corresponded with Godfrey Bradman on the same point.

*Mark Addison*

Mark Addison

9 December 1985