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cc Miss Prite

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

29 June 1983

Dear Joan,

I mentioned to Mr Waldegrave at lunch today that Mr Simon Towneley, Lord-Lieutenant of Lancashire, raised two points with me about the abolition of the metropolitan authorities, during a discussion on other matters.

The first point Mr Towneley made was that there was some concern around Manchester that the abolition of the metropolitan council would deprive the arts of a source of support which might not be made good by the County Council, and he asked whether this was the right moment to make representations to the Government about this point. I said that I knew that the point was not a new one and that Ministers were aware of the problem. But this was the first time at which the implications of the abolition of the metropolitan authorities were being considered, and this would be the right time to bring specific points to the attention of the Government.

Mr Towneley also asked what would be the implications of the abolition of the metropolitan authorities for the Lord-Lieutenants who cover those areas. Could you please let me know - for my own information, not Mr Towneley's - whether this point has yet been considered. This office will of course have a considerable interest in the outcome of the decision about any effect on Lord-Lieutenants.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Butler

Mrs Joan Dunn,
Department of the Environment.

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