CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

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to he P.M. wished to

NET

COMMUNITY CHARGE SAFETY NET

When you saw Chris Patten this morning it was agreed that he would put a paper to you next weekend on possible changes to the safety net, and that you would then take a small meeting to consider it.

The names you mentioned were:

- the Chancellor
- Chris Patten
- Kenneth Baker

I think you had firmly decided <u>against</u> including the other main local authority spending Ministers - there would be too many of them. But you may want to consider two other possibilities:

- should Norman Lamont accompany the Chancellor?
- should Geoffrey Howe attend, bearing in mind his position as Chairman of E(LA) and, perhaps more importantly, as Chairman of the Star Chamber?

Do you want to include:

- (i) Norman Lamont? <
- (ii) Geoffrey Howe? Nor W.

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4 September, 1989.