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MINISTER FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES

3 July 1980

Dr S. Alcock

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT - POST SUNNINGDALE

Following our discussion on 3 June, we were able to arrange a meeting on 24 June at which all the British representatives who were at our Sunningdale Conference were present. It was a most useful meeting. I enclose a note which summarises the main points that were discussed.

As you will see, there was general agreement that I should invite you to be Chairman of a small group to look into ways in which UK firms might become more closely involved in the community. I do hope you will be able to agree to take on this task.

You will also see that there was a willingness on the part of those present to serve on the Working Party itself. I was most encouraged by this. We also had offers of people at senior level from Shell, BP, GEC and the Pru, but we thought there were advantages in having a slim committee based on those who had direct experience of the Sunningdale Conference.

I have agreed that my Department should provide the Secretariat for the Working Party. We are hopeful though that IBM or another leading firm will agree to second someone to work on these issues full time so that we can have a joint public/private secretariat.

On the assumption that you are content to help along the Sunningdale ideas, I have asked Mr Pelling to seek an early meeting with you to discuss the sort of work the Secretariat might put in hand to ensure that when you are ready to start at least some preliminary work will have been done.

Tom King

TOM KING

Sir Alastair Pilkington FRS