



*Cabinet Office Advice
concerning 254x
MAJ*

PRIME MINISTER

Michael Heseltine was good enough to send me a copy of his minute to you of 15 October about a review of inner city policies. I should have commented to you and him earlier.

Your own preference that any inquiry should be speedy coincides with his. My fear is that too quick an inquiry will achieve nothing - and that without a far better understanding than we have now of the causes of inner city conditions we shall not make progress. That is why I still argue that an outside inquiry, chaired by Peter Hall, as Michael suggests, but helped possibly by Christopher Foster and Maurice Stonefrost as well as Nigel Mobbs would save us time, even if it were to take a little more than 6 months.

My suggestion is that Michael should see Peter Hall to ask him whether he would undertake such an inquiry and if so, how long he would take to produce a worthwhile diagnosis and set of proposals. When Michael has Peter Hall's ideas, they could then be considered by him and you.

I am copying this to Michael.

KJ

K J

24 October 1979