

Could I see?

Would the group help with  
 finding more jobs for young  
 Prime Minister people if we locate  
 the work point out

Prime Minister

4

Encouraging. Would you like me  
 to commission a letter for you  
 to send to Sir Alastair wishing  
 the Council success? I understand  
 the Council will start work in the  
 Autumn.

I believe you are aware of the encouragement we have been <sup>WR</sup>  
 giving to a group of leading industrialists to stimulate a greater <sup>16/7</sup>  
role by leading firms in helping to tackle economic and employment  
problems in the inner cities. I believe this is a very important  
 initiative and since a number of names involved will be very  
 familiar to you, I thought it might be useful for you to have the  
 full list of those initially involved.

This initiative follows a conference I chaired in April '80  
 which considered experience of private sector involvement in the  
inner cities in the UK and the USA. Subsequently, I invited  
 Sir Alastair Pilkington to lead a working group to consider ways  
 in which industry and commerce might become more closely involved  
 with local communities and in particular with local government  
 and voluntary bodies. DOE provided the secretariat with support  
 from IBM and BP.

The group has decided to form a "Business in the Community"  
 Council to carry on its work on a wider basis. The Chairmen or  
 senior management of BP, GEC, IBM UK, ICFC, Marks and Spencer,  
 National Westminster Bank, Pilkington Bros, Prudential, Shell UK  
 and United Biscuits have been involved in the discussions leading  
to its formation. They intend to seek support from other  
companies. It is also intended to ask prominent individuals from  
 representative organisations and Government Departments to serve  
 on the Council. Sir Alastair Pilkington will be its first  
 chairman.



The work of the Council will be implemented through an Executive Committee, chaired initially by David Sieff. The Committee will be supported by a small unit comprised of senior managers seconded from member companies. I have agreed to second an Under Secretary from DOE as an indication of the Government's commitment to its work. A Director, drawn from senior management in industry, is to be appointed.

The Business in the Community Unit will seek to build on the growing awareness among companies that self interest as well as altruism dictates the development of a wider role in the communities in which their premises are located. A handbook is to be published which will serve to give ideas to local managers on activities they might undertake. I am hopeful that the Unit will also work with DOE and DI in encouraging the formation of local enterprise agencies which bring the resources of the private sector to help resolve local problems.

The recent events clearly give greater relevance to the importance of the role that they could play.

Copies of this minute go to Keith Joseph, Jim Prior and John Biffen.

TOM KING

July 1981

BUSINESS IN THE COMMUNITY

LIST OF THOSE WHO ATTENDED THE INAUGURAL DINNER

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| Sir Alastair Pilkington FRS                | - Chairman of Working Group on Community Involvement the body which has instigated the setting up of Business in the Community. |
| David Sieff                                | - Member of Pilkington Working Group, Director Marks and Spencer Ltd.   |
| Lord Sieff                                 | - Chairman, Marks and Spencer Ltd.  |
| Lord Caldecote                             | - Chairman, "Finance for Industry Ltd.  |
| Lord Carr                                  | - Chairman, The Prudential Corporation.   |
| E R Nixon                                  | - Chairman, IBM UK Ltd.   |
| Lord Weinstock                             | - Chairman, The General Electric Co Ltd.  |
| David Sarre (vice Sir David Steel)         | - Personnel Director, British Petroleum Ltd.  |
| Bill Bowman (vice Sir Hector Laing)        | - Personnel Director, United Biscuits Ltd.  |
| Peter Moullin (vice Sir Derek Ezra)        | - Member of Pilkington Working Group, Deputy Secretary National Coal Board.   |
| Lord Byers                                 | - Marks and Spencer Ltd.  |
| Owen Heald (vice John Raisman)             | - Director Shell UK Ltd.  |
| Charles Green (vice Robin Leigh Pemberton) | - Chief General Manager, National Westminster Bank representing Committee of Clearing Banks.                                    |