

cc Mr. Ryder *Amend*

PRIME MINISTER

BF 12.12.80

Here is another letter from Horace Cutler about ILEA.

He has decided to set the GLC off on its own track on the subject. There is every prospect of an embarrassing public difference between GLC leaders and Ministers in the run up to the local elections, if Cabinet eventually adopts an approach on the lines recommended by Lady Young's Committee. Do you want to have Horace Cutler in to talk about this, perhaps with Lady Young?

Professor
David Lunn

26 November 1980

Yes please
not
arranged for
Monday 15
December at 1630. No
Briefing required. cf. 2/14

From **SIR HORACE CUTLER, O.B.E.**
LEADER OF THE GREATER LONDON COUNCIL
THE COUNTY HALL, SE1 7PB
Telephone 01-633 3304/2184

24 November 1980.

R26

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
Prime Minister,
10 Downing Street,
London, S.W.1.

Dear Margaret,

ILEA

Since I wrote to you on 18 November we have considered the possibilities and have concluded that, irrespective of the findings of Janet Young's Committee, we must ourselves adopt a positive stance.

The abolition of ILEA now seems impracticable, mainly because we are running out of time and must deploy ourselves for the May 1981 GLC elections for reasons which I will not rehearse. Accordingly we will be seeking the next best thing, which is direct elections to ILEA distinct and separate from election to the GLC.

This "solution" is admittedly anomalous, but so is the very existence of ILEA. If we are prepared to countenance the one then we must have the other.

Our manifesto is in the course of preparation and appropriate provision will be made. It is second-best, but it is better than nothing.

I have already expressed my disappointment at the manner of the exercise in my letter to you of August 7.

*Yours ever
Horace*