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THE ENVIRONMENT POLICY PROGRAMME

I attach documents setting out interim reports on local government finance, home ownership and private rental housing. Documents on transport strategy, rural transport and water are to follow.

I would like to stress that these are very much provisional, first reports, and should be seen for the most part as discussion papers rather than firm positions. Our intention is to fill them out in detail over the next session, and to prepare additional reports on council housing, land and planning, urban transport, the protection of the environment and possibly regional strategy. The Environment Committee has had an opportunity to examine the reports, but we have not had time to revise them to take account of the various points made. The document on local government finance particularly produced varied points of view. But at least I hope that the reports give an idea of our thinking (which had had to face the difficulty that most of our housing and local government specialists have been locked up in the Land Bill Committee). And we feel confident that we have generated enough in the field of housing particularly to put forward a constructive approach at the Party Conference.

23rd July 1975
Timothy Raison