



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

16 January 1985

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RATE SUPPORT GRANT DEBATE: COMMITMENTS FOR 1986/87

The Prime Minister has seen the Lord President's minute of 15 January reporting the outcome of the meeting held with Ministers concerned. She agrees that, in opening the debate, the Secretary of State for the Environment should speak along the lines proposed. She agrees also that, in winding up, the Minister for Local Government may use the line set out under the heading "If Pressed". The Prime Minister would be most reluctant to go as far as the line under the heading "If Further Pressed" and hopes, therefore, that every effort will be made to avoid being drawn this far.

I am copying this letter to John Ballard (Department of the Environment), David Morris (Lord Privy Seal's Office), Richard Broadbent (Chief Secretary's Office), Alex Galloway (Paymaster General's Office), Murdo Maclean (Chief Whip's Office), Mike Bailey (Office of the Minister for Local Government), to Private Secretaries to other members of E(LA), and to Richard Hatfield (Cabinet Office).

(ANDREW TURNBULL)

Miss Janet Lewis-Jones,
Lord President's Office.

CONFIDENTIAL

Br.