



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

4 April 1985

Dear Victor

Thank you for letting me have your report on the local authority finance system following our meeting at Chequers.

I really am most grateful to you for the help which you have given us on this problem. Your contribution, and that of Mr. Hoffmann who wrote the marvellously lucid and concise paper which we discussed at Chequers, has had precisely the effect which I hoped for. Your fresh eye, combined with the incisive approach which you bring to all matters, has caused those concerned to go back to fundamentals and think their way clearly through the issues. As a result I think that we have the best opportunity for a long time to find a lasting solution to this perennial but increasingly acute problem. I hope that you will keep a fatherly eye on the infant's development at least until after the next meeting which we envisaged in mid May.

Robin has told me that you are ready to help with another problem. It is a marvellous offer, and I shall certainly consider whether an original and independent examination of the sort which you bring to bear can have a place in the approach which we adopt.

Yours ever

Raymond

The Lord Rothschild, GBE, GM, FRS.

307

PRIME MINISTER

*of 2.4.85*

In the attached letter Lord Rothschild is "signing off" his contribution to the local government finance problem. I have agreed the line of the reply with William Waldegrave. Lord Rothschild told me that he would love to make a similar contribution to another problem; and thought that he might be able to help on drugs. That is the reference in the last paragraph of the letter for your signature below.

*F.R.B.*

3 April, 1985.