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Michael Scholar Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

27 November 1981

Dear Michael

... In response to your letter of 24 November I
attach a brief for the Prime Minister's
meeting with a delegation from the Jobs for
Youth Campaign on Monday, 30 November.

Yours

Mamie Fahey

MISS M C FAHEY
Private Secretary

BRIEF FOR THE PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH A DELEGATION FROM THE
JOBS FOR YOUTH CAMPAIGN - 30 NOVEMBER 1981

Background

1 The jobs for youth campaign is the name of an umbrella organisation set up by the following bodies: The British Youth Council, Afro-Caribbean Organisation, National Association for Asian Youths, National Union of Students, Trades Union Congress, Youthaid.

2 The campaign has organised the Jobs Express, which involves unemployed young people travelling from one area of high youth unemployment to another, as a way of drawing attention to the campaign. The Jobs Express is terminating in London on 30 November, with a lobby of Parliament. (Also to be addressed by the Minister of State for Employment, the leader of the Opposition, and Lord Beaumont). The full composition of the delegation is not yet known, but it will be led by Mr John Collins of the British Youth Council, who has acted as co-ordinator for the campaign.

Points from the Campaign

3 The campaign has issued a broad sheet detailing the points it considers should constitute a new deal for young people. The points, and the Government's position on them, are briefly:

- i YOP must be improved, with more training and a higher allowance. The Government agrees there should be more training, and announced on 27 July that it was considering a new scheme to replace YOP where the emphasis would be on training. Details will be announced shortly by the Secretary of State for Employment. There will also be an announcement on the allowance.
- ii YOP trainees must not be used as cheap labour, and the scope of the scheme should be extended to 19 - 25 year olds.

The Government accepts substitution of trainees for employees is an abuse of YOP. The MSC takes speedy steps in cases where substitution is found to close schemes down. A recent review of operating procedures will lead to improvement in monitoring YOP. But YOP is a programme for new entrants to work, which are a group that the Government believes merit extra help and priority. The Community Enterprise Programme exists to help older unemployed people - those 18 and over.

- iii } young workers should be given training and education as part of their jobs.

The Government accepts the need to develop more widespread training provision for young people in work. This need is reflected in the paper 'A New Training Initiative' on which comments have been received. The Government's plans for better training of young people will be announced shortly.

- iv apprenticeships must be increased, improved, and modernised.

The Government is supporting 30,000 apprenticeship places this year, a third of the total. It entirely agrees that reform of apprenticeships is needed to breakdown unnecessary restrictions such as those relating to age of entry. Comments on the NTI show there is widespread support for reform. Apprenticeships will form part of the Government's forthcoming announcement on training.

- v racial and sex discrimination at work

On race, the Government's special employment measures are directed towards areas/people most in need, and efforts are being made to provide effective help to minority groups. But these measures cannot themselves create equality. This can only be achieved by the hard work and goodwill of those who exercise influence in the employment field.

On sex, the Government believes the existing legislation (The Sex Discrimination Act) provides a comprehensive framework for equal treatment between men and women. Again, getting attitudes right is the key. Insofar as special employment measures are concerned, YOP provides around half its places for young women.

- vi all 16 - 19 year olds must have a chance of continued study.

It is the Government's policy to encourage as many young people as possible to stay on in education. Extra resources (amounting to £60m in 1982/3) have been made available for this purpose. Staying-on rates are going up significantly. The Government is also proposing improvements in the relevance and attraction of the curriculum, which will help encourage young people to remain in education.

- vii grants should be guaranteed for all 16 - 19 year olds in full-time study.

Educational Maintenance Allowances can be made available on a discretionary basis from local authorities for those who stay on at school, and discretionary grants for those who stay on in FE. But

local authorities, of course, are under expenditure pressures themselves and the money tends to go to places of hardship. To make grants available in all cases would be expensive, and although this is kept under review it cannot be contemplated at present.

viii the number of places in higher education must be expanded.

Higher education cannot be exempted from the general need to contain public spending. This may mean fewer places overall in the short term, but the Government hopes that any reeducation will be more than matched by more places in subjects that the country urgently needs - eg technology, engineering.

Government Plans for the Training of Young People (Not to be read out -
Confidential)

4 The Secretary of State for Employment will shortly be publishing a White Paper on Training for young people - both those in jobs and the unemployed. For the unemployed, the paper will outline a new comprehensive training scheme for those in their first year at work after minimum school leaving age. The scheme will provide a full year's training combining varied work experience and on and off the job training. The accent will be much more heavily on training than in the current YOP. There will be enough places (around 380,000) for all the target group, and therefore the Government is proposing to withdraw benefit from these young people. Child Benefit will continue to be paid, but if the young person chooses to remain unemployed he/she will receive no benefit in his/her own right. In the light of this, the allowance payable under the scheme will be low - at current prices £12.75 a week (however for older young people on the scheme, a higher allowance will be paid recognising the fact that they will retain eligibility for benefit).

Known Views of the BYC

5 Mr John Collins, BYC, met Lord Gowrie the Minister of State at DE, in May 1981 to discuss youth unemployment issues. He was in favour of continuing the development of YOP, and was against the schemes of national community service. He pressed the Minister to increase the YOP allowance, alleging that its low level was dissuading young people from entering the programme. Mr Collins spoke strongly against [redacted] proposals to offer young unemployed people a period of military training.

6 There is broad agreement between the BYC and the Government on the way to develop vocational preparation and training arrangements - although the Council can be expected to press for immediate action, and is likely to be unhappy about taking young people out of benefit and paying them a low level of allowance under the YOP successor scheme.

PRIME MINISTER

BRITISH YOUTH COUNCIL DELEGATION

I have some information on the six people who will be accompanying Mr. John Collins for your meeting with the jobs for youth campaign this afternoon:

1977 Secretary

Brendan Heaney is 25, from Belfast. He qualified in teacher training four years ago but has been unable to find permanent work since then.

Lt. Gov of Northern Ireland

Theresa Short is 24. She is from Cambridge. She has 7 CSEs and 3 O-levels. She has been unemployed for 6 months.

Elizabeth Thomas is 16, from Edinburgh. She has been on the Youth Opportunities Programme since August when she left school. She is working on children in community care.

Gayle Meyer is 19, from Dagenham. She has been unemployed since June. She has 5 O-levels and 1 A-level.

Wayne Daniels is 19, from Sheffield. He has been unemployed for 2½ years since being made redundant from the construction industry.

Mike Carr has been unemployed for 4 months. He is 22 and has 10 O-levels and 2 A-levels and has a business diploma. He has a place on a degree course but no grant and so will be unable to proceed. He is from Middlesborough.

I have been given notice from Central Office of one or two issues which came up on the Jobs Express Train, and which they think may come up in the meeting.

(1) The Laurence Scott dispute in Manchester. You have had briefing on this for Questions, and I attach the material which was supplied by the Department.

(2) There is criticism of the Youth Opportunities Programme on the grounds that "it does not offer very much."

(3) It is likely that the meeting which Michael Alison is having with the lobby will be boisterous.

MCS

30 November 1981



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THE RT HON THE BARONESS YOUNG

27 November 1981

Derek Howe Esq
Political Office
10 Downing Street
Whitehall
London SW1

Dear Derek,

Enclosed are my notes on the 'Jobs Express' for the Prime Minister.
If anything of interest comes to light subsequently, I will
contact you on Monday morning.

Yours sincerely,

[Signature]

N.B. One spare copy.

JOBS FOR YOUTH

PROGRESS REPORT - 27th November 1981

350 unemployed young people are travelling to London on the 'Jobs Express' to take part in Rallies and a Lobby of Parliament on Monday. Media coverage has been sparse but the following provides an insight on the activities to date.

MONDAY 23RD NOVEMBER - NEWCASTLE

Following a civic reception and a rally, addressed by TUC General Secretary, Len Murray on the Sunday evening, the train left Newcastle for Scotland. Among those in the party at the station were civic leaders and David Basnett.

In EDINBURGH a rally was addressed by one Rev Andrew Ross of the Scottish Church who said 'what this society needs is a profound rethink in the way it is run'. About 2000 students and trade unionists joined the travellers in a torch light procession through GLASGOW.

TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER - LIVERPOOL

During a long journey from Glasgow the youngsters organised themselves or were organised, into discussion groups dealing with topics such as women, sexism and unemployment and YOPs programmes and how they can be improved. In Liverpool after a rally the group marched with trades unionists and others to the University. The train travelled to MANCHESTER where it was met by civic leaders and Gordon McQueen of Manchester United Football Club.

WEDNESDAY 25TH NOVEMBER - SHEFFIELD

Marching from the station to the Memorial Hall the group were supported by civic leaders and assorted union officers but particularly by Alan Fisher of NUPE. Mr Fisher attacked the YOP scheme for paying a disgraceful pittance as a so-called training allowance. He said, 'There is not much training and very little allowance'. BIRMINGHAM was the next stop where a torch light rally and procession attracted 4000 people. Among them was Alison Lea, a farmer's daughter from Telford. Out of work since qualifying as a farm secretary at agricultural college 18 months ago she said 'People cannot ignore demonstrations like this, something must be done about unemployment.' Local media coverage was fairly extensive, although the Scarman Report was dominant.

THURSDAY 26TH NOVEMBER - SWANSEA

The first stop in Wales saw another rally as the centre piece. Again the support was from civic leaders and the unions but Clive Jenkins ASTMS who had travelled on the Express from Birmingham was the major speaker. Mr Jenkins said 'There will be 5 million unemployed by 1984 at the present rate. We need a most radical approach if we are to solve that problem'.

The train continued to Cardiff where marches and a rally again featured.

FRIDAY 27TH NOVEMBER -

The Express is due to travel to LONDON via Bristol. Over the weekend there will be a March and Rally in central London and numerous concerts. The culmination of the enterprise will be the Lobby of Parliament on Monday. The series of meetings in the Grand Committee Room are to be

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attended by the young people from the train. They will have to produce their tickets to gain admittance, even so, all speakers, Mr Alison, Mr Foot and Lord Beaumont will be subjected to hostile questioning. The delegation meeting the Prime Minister will be lead by John Collins, chairman of the British Youth Council - a responsible young man who joined BYC from the Scouts.

The campaign 'Jobs for Youth' was organised jointly by the British Youth Council, the National Union of Students, the TUC, Youthaid, the Association of Asian Youth and others. These notes show all too clearly that the TUC have made a determined effort to seize the headlines for their own purposes. My unofficial contacts inform me that the other organisers are somewhat displeased by this and hope to rectify the position during the course of the weekend.

In view of the above and the broader political considerations I remain convinced that the Party will benefit from being seen to be meeting and listening to the young people involved. A letter from the Relationships Secretary of the Scout Association is worth noting. Mr J A Allen says 'Now that the Prime Minister and also the Leader of the Opposition have agreed to meet representatives of this campaign, I think we can give it a little more support and encourage young Leaders and Venture Scouts to show an interest in its objectives'.

Tim R Cowell
Assistant Director (Youth)

27th November, 1981

List of representatives from the British Youth
Council attending meeting on Monday 30 November
at 1600 at House of Commons

John Collins

Brendan Heney

Terese Short

Elizabeth Thomas

Gale Mayer

Wayne Daniels

Mike Carr



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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 November 1981

All Party Youth Affairs Lobby

The Prime Minister wrote to Mr. John Collins, Chairman of the British Youth Council, on 15 September on the lines suggested in your letter to Mike Pattison of 9 September. It has now been arranged that the Prime Minister will see Mr. Collins together with a small delegation at 4 p.m. on 30 November in her room at the House of Commons.

I would be grateful for any briefing which you think it would be helpful for the Prime Minister to have. When we know who will be accompanying Mr. Collins we will pass on the names to you.

Please could this briefing be available by close of business on Friday 27 November.

6.00 p.m.

M.C. SCHOLAR

Miss Marie Fahey
Department of Employment.

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