

M E M O R A N D U M

To: Regional Director, North Western Region  
From: Regional Co-ordinator, North Western Region  
Date: 22 June 1987

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VISIT OF DIRECTOR GENERAL, ECONOMIC LEAGUE, TO 18 MUSEUM STREET

1. 15.06.87

A telephone call was received from the Director General on Monday, 15th June, 1987, regarding his intention to visit the North Western offices on the 17th June. He spoke, initially to Miss Riley and requested that I should be available when he came. I therefore telephoned the Director General, that afternoon, the 15th June, to point out that the Regional Director was away on holiday and to express the view that such a visit would be best made when Mr. Brett had returned. I was told that the Director General was aware of your being away and that the circumstances of his having to prepare a written report regarding Regional Registers (for the P & F Committee) dictated his visit to Regions being made quickly. The report, I gathered, had to be ready for early in July. Mr. Noah made it clear that he wished only to see the Register.

2. 17.06.87

The Director General explained that he is to make a case for a Central Register to which all Economic League subscribers, nationally, would have telephone/postal access. This system he stated works well now for South Wales. I said that as far as the North West Region is concerned I supported the retention of the operation in the form currently operated in the North West and that the reason for so supporting was motivated by reasons of practicality arising from eighteen months of experience in the field. I put the following description of our operation (REGISTER) to the Director General with the supporting parameters also listed.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR REGISTER

- a. PRESS.
- b. SUBSCRIBERS.
- c. INVESTIGATIONS (SPECIALS).
- d. LIAISON WITH LOCAL "FRIENDS".

USE OF REGISTER

- i. Immediate response to subscribers (MAS).
  - ii. Build up of Town/City profiles.
  - iii. Profile cards of Trade Union and BLOC organisations.
3. I stated that I thought it not a bad idea to have all information the League possesses, held centrally, for security reasons, but I could not agree that the best interests of the North West Region would be served by running the register centrally. Offering the argument of increased expense (salaries) by having the Register in London, the Director General said that centralization did not necessarily mean London, the Register could be held in the Midlands, especially since the Information Director already works from there.
  4. On the subject of reducing the Region's operation, as I saw his intention, the Director General said that far from reducing the number of people, this could be increased by the introduction of "Researchers" who might have some responsibility to the Information Director, as well as to the Regional Director.
  5. Since I understood that a "Researcher" would also be a "Verifier" and operate in the field, I pointed out that we already have such a person in the North West in the form of JJ. I made the point that I believed only a person of that background would be of any use because of the need to establish contacts. The Director General did not agree with me.
  6. The Director General was shown our Register and talked with Mrs. Jean Latham about its content and operation. She asked him if the intention to move the Register, could mean redundancies. The Director General said that for the moment he was simply gathering up the facts in order to bring the operation into perspective and no decision had yet been made. However, he appeared to favour not a smaller staff, but a staff of a different composition ie. an Admin/Clerical Officer capacity and some Researchers. These would therefore be redundancies for some existing staff.
  7. The Director General asked for copies of cards held in the names of BARKER and ROBERTS. As I understand it, he will compare information we hold in this regard with information held elsewhere, since he feels there is a lack of co-ordination and some doubt as well, as to whether certain individuals should be held on record at all.
  8. The Director General volunteered that both North Eastern and Scotland favour a central Register.

SUMMARY

It seems to me that the Director General has the following salient points in mind for his paper to the P & F Committee.

- A. A central Register.
- B. An increased Regional staff, perhaps comprising "Researchers" who would, in part, be responsible to the Information Director.
- C. A reduced records staff in Regions.

G.S. BAKER  
Regional Co-ordinator.