



**L**ondon Underground today launched its latest initiative against graffiti. Until recently it's been concentrating on trains, now stations are getting the clean-up treatment. Fifteen stations on a section of the Metropolitan Line from Amersham, Chesham, and Watford, down to Preston Road are being targeted. Caroline Gluck reports.

Graffiti like this, sprayed on Underground stations and trains costs millions of pounds every year to remove. London Underground has been making a determined effort to clean up its image and wage war on the graffiti vandals. Until recently that work was aimed at keeping trains slogan-free. Now with some success, London Underground are turning their attention to the stations. One of the worst hit areas is on the Metropolitan Line in North West London. Stations such as this one at North Harrow have undergone a £400,000 clean-up operation. Graffiti is removed and walls are coated with a special paint, making graffiti easy to clean off.

**Mike SCOTT, General Manager Metropolitan Line**

*- Well, we want to make the environment much better for the customers. A lot of them find the graffiti very threatening.*

*- Just how much of a problem is graffiti ?*

*- It's very very bad. Er – We've in the past, we've had to paint over graffiti when it's occurred. It's taken a lot of time and a lot of money.*

Tube travellers today welcomed the new initiative.

*- I think people'll probably respect the -the stations a bit more.*

*- Yes, I think it should improve it.*

*- Well, I think yes, any station, anywhere, it'll make a great improvement.*

*- London Underground are trying to clear up several stations on the Metropolitan Line.*

*- Do you think that's a good idea ?*

*- Oh, definitely so, yes. I'm against graffiti you know.*

*- Graffiti is vandalism, I'm against all that.*

Underground managers plan to take their anti-graffiti message into schools.

They also hope that today's pilot scheme could be extended throughout the whole tube network.

(Retour au plateau)

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