



10 DOWNING STREET

STRICTLY PRIVATE - CONFIDENTIAL

7th June 1982.

My dear Michael,

I write to you in confidence, and without having talked to the Prime Minister.

It has been suggested to me that the special chance and opportunity which I have had down my present job would be an equal chance and opportunity for another; that after 3 years I have

gained all I can from the job
and that it would be wrong to
deny to another the experience which
I have had.

I am now 45. I have lived,
and still live, doing this job.

Above all, I love my Boss.
Despite my many shortcomings, I
think (though I may not be right
in thinking) that for her, old shippers
are the most comfortable.

Her wishes are, to coin a



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those, "paramount".

Nevertheless, it is ludicrous
to say that another could not
do that job, and probably do it
better.

I have in mind to have a
chat with her about this; but before I
do so, I would like to know your
thinking about a possible success,
should the situation arise.

Clearly, any man who I
may express to be about myself
will be influenced by whom you
would recommend as a successor.

There is no man about this; my
relationship with the Prime Minister is
close and happier than ever; I will be
happy and honored to continue to be
a member of the Parliament - which is what
has asked me to do.

But no man is irreplaceable - at
the first what I made in the recent pamphlet
of the letter has its force.

May we have a word?) Love
Linn