

ECCLES

Dewo

1 March 1977

Thank you very much indeed for your letter on Devolution and for giving the recent reactions you have obtained in Scotland and your own views on the way forward. These are extremely valuable as we now take stock of the position.

I think we all agree that the Devolution issue is not going to "go away" with the demise of the present Bill and that an acceptable solution has to be found. Francis Pym's initiative on a constitutional conference has helped present a vacuum.

Thank you again for going to the trouble of writing to me. I am most grateful.

I was particularly interested in the view that the SNP is past peak. This gives us ever greater opportunities if we adjudge the situation aright and find a solution along the lines of your two points.

Love to Sheila.

The Viscount Eccles, PC KCVO