



RJ/SMC

Rt. Hon. John Davies, MP,
House of Commons.

26th May 1977

Margaret Thatcher asked me to attend earlier this week a meeting with Amnesty, because I have been one of their supporters.

Paul Oestreicher and David Simpson spent about 45 minutes talking to her. They emphasised that they are only concerned with political prisoners who are not terrorists. They emphasised how even-handed they try to be. They tried to persuade Margaret to look upon alleged barbarities in countries such as Iran, Indonesia and South Africa in the same way as she views barbarity in Communist countries. They said that there had been a remarkable opening up of the Foreign Office's contact with them over the years and that they would very much hope that this would continue when she becomes Prime Minister.

They ~~hope~~ ^{wish} that Conservative visitors overseas should brief themselves with Amnesty before they go, so as to see whether there is anything modestly effective that they could hope to achieve.

They particularly asked that Margaret appoint someone to act as liaison between the Party and Amnesty. Margaret asked me to pass all this on to you, so that you can take what action you think fit. She seemed to like the idea that someone should be nominated by you to keep in touch with Amnesty and spoke, perhaps, of Peter Blaker's suitability. Of course, she explained it would be for you to decide.

I have had from David Simpson since that meeting the attached letter together with a card, so that you can do as you think fit.

Encl.

C.c Rt Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP