

Letter dated 7th September 1981 from the Prime Minister to
The Rt. Hon. Lord Thorneycroft CH

My dear Peter,

Thank you so much for your letter of 25th August.

You know how greatly I have relied upon your advice since I became Leader of our Party in February 1975.

You know, too, how enormously I have valued your untiring work as Chairman of the Party over the past six and a half years.

The Conservative Party has had many distinguished Chairmen. You have served in this post for longer than any of your predecessors with the single exception of Lord Woolton. Your contribution to the advancement of the Conservative cause has been unique and it is typical of your magnanimity that you should advise that I should now appoint a younger successor.

I remember that you first entered the House of Commons in 1938, and that you first became a Minister in 1945. I remember, too, your long service as a member of the Cabinet. You say, generously, that your time as Chairman of our Party has been the most rewarding of your long career. I have enjoyed, so much, working with you. I hope that the Party and I may continue to have your

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advice in the years that lie ahead.

I send to you - and to Carla - who has always supported you so magnificently - my warmest gratitude and that of the whole Party for all that you have both done for our Party and for our country.

Yours ever,

Margaret