



BRITISH CONSULATE-GENERAL

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19 December 1979

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Private Secretary to the Prime Minister
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*Not what I asked for but
no matter!*

Dear Michael

for [unclear] 3/1/79

THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO NEW YORK

As we hastened off last evening you asked if I could send you a note of the questions put at the Rockefeller dinner. Some of those who spoke were simply making approving noises but the following were, I think, the questions:-

- i) can the UK's problems be solved in a time scale before the voters revolt? And linked with this, can a real change of attitude in the people be brought about?
- ii) about the restoration of incentives and how the raising of VAT has stepped up the inflation rate;
- iii) dissensions within the EEC and the British demand for a smaller share of the burden;
- iv) about Northern Ireland and the ways ahead;
- v) since it is generally believed that where Britain goes so goes the United States; what guidance could the Prime Minister offer about US policies.

2. Remembering your grim experience in the New York traffic, we must think ourselves lucky indeed that the visit was yesterday and not today when the skies are heavy, the visibility very low and with snow already falling.

*Yours ever
G Booth*

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