

For Prime Minister

Will do.

sub.

FROM THE MASTER



01-606 3113

*Grocers' Hall,
Princes Street,
London, EC2R 8AQ*

17th September, 1979

Denis Thatcher, Esq.,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1

My Dear Denis.

Thank you for your kind letter of 13th September - it was very good of you to reply to mine so quickly.

I hasten to reassure you that the duties of an Honorary Freeman of the Grocers' Company can hardly be described as arduous.

In the first instance, it would be necessary for Margaret to attend a Court Meeting for a very brief Admission ceremony, to be followed by either luncheon or dinner, entirely at her convenience. Thereafter she would be invited to dine with the Court, and/or Livery, from time to time. For example, the Queen Mother tries to visit us every other year, Harold MacMillan has not been able to attend for many years due to his advancing age. Lord Home appears to enjoy an annual visit.

I know only too well that her parliamentary duties must come first, and this will always be readily understood.

Her admission as an Honorary Freeman would be the greatest honour, not only for the Grocers' Company, but also for the whole City of London.

I trust you will use whatever influence you may have upon the Prime Minister to induce her to accept.

I promise you that it would mean no demand upon her time at all.

Yours ever,

Chive Bassam.

DENIS THATCHER

13 September 1979

Thank you for your letter of 5 September.

Margaret is sensible of the honour you (particularly) and your Court may pay her but there is a "but". What does the Honorary Freeman involve?

The demands on Margaret are enormous and you will know well how meticulously and thoroughly she works at everything she is required to do, thus anything extra is now looked at with care. You know us well enough not to be offended by the question as to "what is involved" but some of us here are getting a bit worried that Margaret takes on that much too much.

Best regards to you and Barbara,

Sir Clive Bossom, Bt.



10 DOWNING STREET

MR. THATCHER

Sir Clive Bossom
obviously knows you very well.
I wonder if it would be possible
for you to ring him and find
out exactly what it involves.
What we want to avoid doing is
accepting something which will
then lead to further engage-
ments.

es.

11 September 1979



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER

I attach a letter from Sir Clive Bossom to your husband asking if you would become the Senior Honorary Freeman of the Grocers' Company. I would be grateful if you could refuse this as if you accept, you will only commit yourself to attending one of their functions and being forced to make a major speech.

We will obviously regret in the nicest possible terms.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'P.D.' with a flourish.

10 September 1979

*what does
it involve
not*