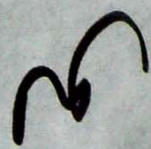


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FR)M: The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Jospéh, Bt. M.P.



KJ:smw

10th September, 1975

Geoffrey and I had a talk with Margaret the other day and agreed that one of the essentials before government will be to ensure that all colleagues share a common set of purposes. In order both to work towards and to refine this common approach Margaret agreed that she would set aside adequate time during the coming year for leisurely and relatively small meetings of senior colleagues.

This note, which I am copying to Margaret and Geoffrey, is therefore to ask you to consult Margaret about reserving time during the coming months.

Geoffrey suggests that the best way to avoid wasting time would perhaps be for a paper on the chosen sector - perhaps economic or social or Home Office affairs - to be taken at a relatively brief meeting of the group of colleagues concerned so as to identify any particular areas of difficulty between us. In the light of that discussion a fuller paper would be prepared to be circulated in advance of the more leisurely meeting.

If Margaret accepts this method of working then we should want a 30 minute meeting before or after Shadow to be followed say a month later by a half-day meeting, perhaps at the weekend.

Would you see please whether, if Margaret agrees, you can reserve some slots for the half-day sessions starting perhaps in November and trying to get one in each month, since there are several sectors and since, I think, Margaret agrees that we want to keep each group discussion to a small enough number - say 9 or 10 in all - to be productive.

You will probably have seen Geoffrey's letter to Margaret of September 1st dealing with the same subject of leisurely discussions and suggesting that people outside Shadow Cabinet - and he suggested some names - should be added including some people who are not M.P.s.

...../We could easily

We could easily do this if Margaret wished but we would then have to enlarge the numbers a bity

Perhaps when you have Margaret's first views Geoffrey and I can make some suggestions for her on policy clusters and on groups so that plenty of notice can be given.

Airey Neave, Esq., D.S.O., O.B.E., M.C., T.D., M.P.,
Leader of the Opposition's Office,
House of Commons,
LONDON, S.W.1.

cc The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC, M.P.