

Prime Minister

1. At your meeting with Neil Marten yesterday, he suggested that you might hold informal lunches for those Ministers who are not in the Cabinet and whom, inevitably, you do not see regularly.
2. You agreed, in principle, to his suggestion and mentioned that you thought that Monday might be a convenient day to hold these lunches.
3. Herewith letter from Neil of yesterday's date, to which he has attached suggestions for the first four lunches.
4. I do think that this is a good idea, and my only anxiety is the further burden which it will place on your time.
5. As you know, Nicholas Ridley, (whom you saw last week) had also mentioned to me that, for reasons which Ministers outside the Cabinet quite understand, some of them do feel that they do not see as much of you as they would like.
6. Generally, I know that you believe strongly in the need to keep the whole of the Parliamentary Party in close contact with you. It is a strange anomaly that although backbenchers recognise your immense accessibility in the House, some Ministers not in the Cabinet, feel that they are a little out of touch.

Ian Gow

1.2.80.