

Conservative Research Department

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TO ALL MEMBERS OF THE LEADER'S STEERING COMMITTEE

I enclose two drafts of the Manifesto for discussion at the next meeting of the Steering Committee on Monday, 5th March at 3.00 p.m.

Both documents are around 7,000 words in length. This is more than the five and a half thousand words requested by the Leader but about half the length of the last two Manifestos and considerably less than half the length of the draft which the Shadow Cabinet approved in the Autumn. We do not believe that either version could be substantially shortened without loss of impact.

I am sorry to burden members of the Committee with two documents but it became apparent in the course of drafting that there are two possible approaches to a shorter Manifesto. The first, adopted in version A, is to retain the structure used in most previous Manifestos and to devote a separate chapter to each main area of policy. The second, adopted in version B, is to present the same policies and arguments, but to arrange them around a small number of major themes. If the Committee decides that a shorter Manifesto is appropriate, we should like to know which of these two approaches it would prefer.

ANGUS MAUDE

27th February, 1979