

From: the Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23
22 June 1979

Ed du Cann

I promised to write you a short note to set out some of the matters I raised when we met on Monday.

1) The Boyle Report

The Government has now announced its proposals. I think my colleagues will be bitterly disappointed that the advice which we gave was not accepted by the Cabinet, with results that were very painful yesterday. I do not remember a meeting of the 1922 Committee where one of our colleagues was so badly received as was Norman yesterday.

If you would like to see the Vice-Chairmen and myself early next week we are of course at your disposal.

2) Election of the Leader of the Conservative Party

I shall be grateful if you will let me know in due course when you would like the election to take place so that I can make an announcement. I feel it would be valuable, if you agree, to re-establish a committee to decide how Conservative Members of the European Assembly should be associated with the election.

3) The Conservative Party in the House of Commons is looking forward very much to entertaining you to lunch at the Savoy Hotel at 12.30 for 1 on the 18 July. We should be very pleased to invite Mr Thatcher if he is free.

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- 4) I expressed to you my concern at the fact that little is being done to encourage liaison between the Houses of Parliament and British Members of the European Parliament, and between the Conservative Party in the House of Commons and the Conservative group in the European Parliament.

I think the House as a whole should assume responsibility for liaison, and in the 1922 Committee we shall put forward certain proposals which I hope will be helpful to our Party.

There seems to be a great reluctance on the part of Members in general to be constructive, and I am very much afraid that unless we take some action the divide between us will grow greater.

Y
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The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
10 Downing Street
S.W.1.