



18 Oct 82

My dear Margaret:

Thank you so much for giving me that wonderful luncheon and for assembling such a splendid group of family and friends. It was an occasion I shall remember for the rest of my life. I do not feel old yet. But I get irritable when I find that my body will no longer always do what ~~my, body~~ I demand of it. Thank you also so much for the Chequers book and my favourite Gilenfidich.

I certainly trust that you will still be

in Downing St & Chequers in five years time. We need a second term - at least - or much that we have achieved and striven for will be known away. At present the Labour party appears to be indulging in an orgy of self destruction. But one never knows. No doubt in the short run their economic follies would do most damage. But what frightens me most about them are the foreign policy and the internal social measures. People do not seem to realise the extent to which they will put our lives at risk



by their unilateral efforts at disarmament, and freedom at risk by their internal policies at home. In the long run these are more frightening policies than economic extravagance. However things are looking well at the moment, and if the SDP can collect an adequate number of former and potential Labour votes, they may well do us a good turn on balance.

I have greatly appreciated serving under you, and I have enjoyed my second term

as Lord Chancellor. Being a conservative with a small as well as a big 'c' I don't boast of reforms. But I was able to tell the Law Society last week that in my two terms I had achieved more in the way of Law Reform than any other Chancellor for about a century, perhaps ever. And I have not compromised the integrity or independence of the system.

Again thank you. There was only one person whom I missed at the luncheon. My wife, whose loss I constantly deplore. She would have loved it.

Yrs. Q. H.