



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

2 December 1982

Dear John,

Thank you so much for your letter of 25 November and for inviting Denis and me to stay with Ursula and yourself at Holyrood for the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland.

We would have loved to come for the Assembly and to have accepted your invitation. But I have in prospect a heavy programme of speeches and overseas visits during that period of next year; and I have to have in mind that by then we will be in the last year before a General Election. In such a period there is always a risk that any action of mine is presented as having a political motive, and I would not for the world want my presence at the General Assembly to have any such interpretation put upon it. *I therefore think it would be wiser not to come this year.*

I am sure that you will understand.

Yours sincerely

Raymond Thatcher

Colonel Sir John Gilmour, D.S.O., T.D., J.P.