

Lord Beloff,



18 December 1981

Dear Miss Stephens,

I am approaching you about the possibility of the Prime Minister according me a brief personal interview in the New Year. I enclose a brief note about the subject-matter I have in mind.

I am about to leave for three weeks abroad and will not be back until 9th January. Mr John Hoskyns tells me that he thinks the following week might prove to be convenient for the Prime Minister. Perhaps you could therefore send me a note to await my return. The best address would be c/o ~~St Antony's College, Oxford~~ St. Antony's College, Oxford.

As far as my own arrangements for the week in question are concerned; on Monday Jan. 11th; I am lecturing at the Royal College of Defence Studies in the morning but am free in the afternoon. On Tuesday Jan. 12th, I have meeting from 11 to 1 and again from 3.30 to 5; on Wednesday Jan. 13th, I have a meeting from 11.30 to 1 but am again free on the afternoon. I am quite free on Jan. 14th or 15th.

Perhaps in passing on this request to the Prime Minister you would convey to her my Christmas and New Year greetings and best wishes,

and may I offer you the same?

yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'R. Beloff', written in a cursive style.

Miss Caroline Stephens,  
10 Downing Street.





To The Prime Minister from Lord Beloff.

#### THE GOVERNMENT AND THE INTELLECTUAL COMMUNITY

The most important thing if the Government's policies are to fructify is to win the next general election. The victory of 1979 was preceded by a strong movement in the Universities and in the intellectual community generally away from socialism and towards acceptance of the general Conservative position on national and international questions. We have witnessed an ebbing of this support and a strong movement into the Social Democratic Party of many of our natural supporters. The growth of support for CND is another disquieting symptom. Although numerically less important than the mere floating voters many of whom we may well win back anyhow, opinion-formers do help to mould the intellectual environment within which political action takes place.

I believe that these threats can only be countered if the government's policies which have necessarily taken a negative cost-cutting approach are shown to be a prelude to more positive policies in the future based on the vision of a ~~free~~<sup>free</sup> and just society - policies which more members of the intellectual community will be called upon to take part in framing. I believe that to make headway along these lines demands a national campaign of an unusual kind.

I have discussed this question and connected issues with among others, Lady Young, Sir Keith Joseph, Mr Cecil Parkinson, Mr William Waldegrave and Mr John Hoskyns. But I feel that the matter is so important that the Prime Minister should be directly involved in both the planning and the execution of such a campaign.