

FROM LORD HAILSHAM OF SAINT MARY, LESONE



29 July 1975.

My dear Margaret:

Thank you very much for your letter. I do not in the least attribute any part of the responsibility for the present impasse with Ted to yourself. But, obviously, so long as you and he are at arms length there is the possibility of a permanent split in the party which wd., at any rate for the time being, destroy us in the country.

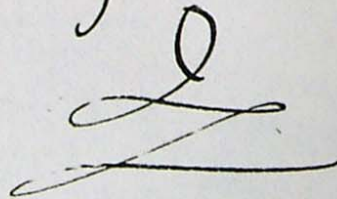
So far as regards a Lab: con alliance I share your fears, if, as at present seems likely, Wilson retains the loyalty of a majority of his "followers". But, if he did, I doubt if we wd. be wise to join on any terms. It wd. be better to keep him in power as a minority Govt. until we could knock him out at the polls. But this wd. be clearly much more difficult, if he had recruited



a number of prominent Con's and Libs to take office under his leadership.

- At present, of course, we cannot foretell what the future will hold.
- But this is precisely what makes me worry about the absence of communication between present and former colleagues.

Yrs:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to be the initials 'L' or 'L.' with a long horizontal stroke underneath.