

W Gow

1 February 1983

Policy Unit

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PRIME MINISTER

SPEECHES 1983

We discussed yesterday your speech programme for the next 6 months or so. You thought that you would like to identify and concentrate on four or five major themes, each of which could dominate a single speech and would require careful preparation.

To provide depth, ideas and background, it would be helpful to consult outside academics and specialists. You said you might like to hold one or two lunches or dinners to discuss some of the topics.

We tentatively identified the following themes and names:

1. Foreign Affairs and a Strategy for Britain. This speech would be designed to have a Churchillian sweep and to deal with long-run historical trends rather than short-term diplomatic tactics. It would include sections on the Third World, the Middle East and Europe - although the EDU speech provisionally arranged for 24 June could also deal with the topic of How to Build an Outward-Looking Europe.

To consult: Tony Parsons, along with Hugh Trevor-Roper, Michael Howard, Hugh Thomas etc.

2. Freedom and Order. This would analyse the "other half" of our picture of a free society: the preservation of order within a framework of fairly-administered laws. We would need to discuss the police, legal and penal reform and the role of Parliament.

We mentioned as possible consultants: Quintin Hailsham, Paul Johnson, Tony Quinton, Patricia Morgan, and perhaps Michael Rutter.

3. Social Provision. Each generation has to redefine the borderline between the Welfare State and the private domain of family and self-help. We have to re-explain the intellectual and moral case for leaving more scope for self-reliance while continuing to maintain the safety net to a high standard. This speech would cover health, education and social security and housing.

We thought of: Caroline Cox. I would also suggest Digby Anderson of the Social Affairs Unit at the IEA, Alan Peacock, Max Beloff and George Bunton. I will ask Hugh Thomas about social historians.

4. Industrial and Commercial Strategy. This would include substantial sections on energy, small business, the nationalised industries, privatisation and trade.

We did not discuss names, but Walter Goldsmith, John MacGregor and Nigel Lawson might be helpful.

5. Nuclear Weapons and Defence. Apart from the section on the unilateralists' case in your YC speech, you thought there was a case for doing a full-scale speech on Defence - in which the nuclear question would play no more than its appropriate part.

6. The Ownership Society. We want to develop the theme: from a property-owning democracy (Eden) to a capital-owning democracy (Macleod) - and on towards a society in which individual families have control over most of the important parts of their lives, including education and health no less than the choice of a house or a car.

If you are content with this rough division, we could begin to fit subjects to speaking engagements, and then enlist your panels of consultants.

FERDINAND MOUNT

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cc Mr Butler
Mr Scholar
Miss Stevens
Mr Vereker
Sir Anthony Parsons
Mr Jackling
W Gow