



Treivnard Manor
St Erth,
Cornwall.

23rd January 1983.

My dear Margaret.

I shall not be speaking in the Franks debate but I wanted to send you this personal letter of support and encouragement.

The Report itself puts our case better than we could have ever dared to hope, and I can add nothing to it. Leaving aside the predictable disappointment of the Opposition and the media - the country generally is sick, I believe, of the whole affair. It is neither in a mood for recrimination, or self-justification. We won -

and that is good enough for the overwhelming proportion of the British people.

In my letter of resignation I said a number of things publicly about your leadership. But public letters cannot say what I really feel about our friendship over 15 years in government and opposition.

Our friendship has been sustained for me - through years of happy cooperation and occasional fierce disagreement (tinged with moments of positive dislike on both sides, I suspect!) - by your wonderful personality.

Your greatest triumph as a PM, if I may say so, is that your colleagues (with very few exceptions) actually like you as a person. Some of them even



Love you, just a little!

It is inexcusable to say so nowadays but I actually admire you as a woman - your good looks, charm and bearing have always attracted me as a man. I'm sorry, but what's wrong with that! I think your emotional, instinctive and unpragmatic approach to most issues - so very unmasculine - is the secret of your success in the male-dominated world of politics.

Today there is no way that a methodical ~~and~~, rational and consensus approach to the nation's problems can overcome them. Until you gained the leadership we were a "Whips Party"; I am glad that we are now a gut "instincts Party"

Well - I am glad to be gone - and truthfully the government is better off without me. I lost my "spark" after the Defence Review during those awful PESC negotiations in 1981.

Perhaps unreasonably I came to harbour a resentment that the hords of the Treasury could not see the immensity and long-term nature of the problems I was trying to tackle in the MOD - and in Geoffrey's case, the overriding importance and the nature of the Defence dilemma.

I always wanted to go at the end of this Parliament - but feeling as I did, it was important to go quickly - because it began to show. I am so glad to be out of it all - and enthusiastic about the next challenge.



Given the immensity of your task and the support that you need to sustain your courage and conviction - it would be invidious of me to offer any caution.

But I cannot restrain myself from one remark which you will not like. The government will succeed or fail in the next 6/7 years because the British people approve of it - collectively.

The personal loyalty and dedication of your political / press advisers in No 10, I do not question. But the lobby and the corridors of Parliament are a dangerous place. I think it is utterly ~~divine~~ divisive and destructive

to good government if the
 parliamentary / Bobby system is used
 to sustain the PM or No 10's view of
 life - against the Cabinet generally or
 individual colleagues. You would never
 countenance such a thing, I know -
 but it should not happen.

I do not mean to end on
 a sour, patronising or critical note
 because that, I hope, is not the tenor
 of my final letter. I wish you Godspeed.

You are doing a marvellous job
 - in an almost impossible environment.
 Fortunately we are blessed by an
 outstanding Civil Service for whom I
 have nothing but praise & admiration
 - albeit they need pushing and shoving
 now & again.

I wish you and Denis ^{every} personal
 happiness & success as the task continues
 Love - John

Personal

Margaret Thatcher .

from: John W. ...



HOUSE OF COMMONS