

Prime Minister

MEETING AT CHEQUERS ON THURSDAY 7TH APRIL 1983

1. Cecil and I had a word with you about this after lunch today.
2. You are not right in saying that we have not consulted you about the procedure for drawing up the Manifesto.
3. Herewith a copy of my Note to you of the 8th of last month, which, after discussion with Cecil and me, you specifically agreed.
4. On the day of the meeting at Chequers on 7th April, Geoffrey Howe and Ferdy Mount will be working in London on the Manifesto; of course if you want them at Chequers they will be there; however, Cecil and I think that preliminary decisions about how you should spend your time during the Campaign could be taken before the content of the Manifesto is settled.
5. May we therefore proceed, please, with the Chequers meeting as suggested in the attached Note to you dated 21st March?
6. We do, please, need to make a decision now about 7th April; if you would like Cecil and me to come to see you tomorrow morning, we will of course do so.

28.3.83

IAN GOW

G.E. Manifesto
file

Prime Minister


GENERAL ELECTION MANIFESTO

1. As you know, Policy Groups have been asked to send their reports to Geoffrey by 31st March 1983.
2. Geoffrey is writing today to each Minister who is head of a Department (in double envelopes) asking that Minister to let Geoffrey have a draft of the paragraphs which he would like to see in the Manifesto, so far as his Department is concerned. Geoffrey is asking that these drafts should be submitted to him before the end of this month.
3. On 9th and 10th April, Geoffrey is proposing to go through all of the material which will, by then, have been received, with:-
Keith Joseph (in his capacity as Chairman of our
Advisory Committee on Policy)
David Howell
Nigel Lawson
Norman Tebbit
Cecil Parkinson
Ferdynand Mount
Adam Ridley
Peter Cropper
4. Immediately thereafter, Ferdynand will assemble and Geoffrey and Cecil will approve a first draft of the Manifesto for your consideration. They hope that this draft will be available for your consideration by 15th April.

.../...

5. The team which Geoffrey proposes for his studies on 9th and 10th April is first class and contains only those who are sound. I have stressed to Geoffrey the crucial importance of keeping totally confidential the composition of this group since the membership would be deeply resented by the Wets.
6. Geoffrey will, of course, be heavily engaged in the Budget until the 15th March, but thereafter he will be able to give time to this.
7. I stress that the draft document to which I refer in the paragraph numbered 4 will be a preliminary draft only, and that, of course, no decisions whatever will have been taken at that stage.
8. I hope that you will agree that this is a sensible way of tackling the Manifesto, involving closely those whom you trust most, but without imposing a heavy burden on you during these preliminary stages.
9. Would you like to see the suggestions from Ministers (see paragraph 2 above) when they come in? I really am anxious that you should not, repeat not, carry an unnecessary burden at the early stages.

8.2.83


IAN GOW

PRIME MINISTER

cc. The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Caroline Stephens

General Election Planning

1. You will remember that you have set aside Thursday, 7th April for a meeting at Chequers in order to discuss the General Election.
2. Cecil suggests that the following should be present:

- ✓ Himself
- ✓ Chris Lawson
- ✓ Tony Shrimley
- ✓ Michael Spicer
- Gordon Reece
- Tim Bell
- David Wolfson
- Myself

*Fredrick Thorn
is crucial.*


*And so is Geoffrey
Howe*

Do you agree with this list, please?

3. Would it be agreeable to you if we were to start the meeting at 10.00 a.m. and aim to finish by, say, 4.00 p.m.?
4. The main purpose of the meeting will be to discuss:
 - (a) the style of the Campaign
 - (b) how you want to use your time.

c) the content

21.3.83


IAN GOW