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*Dear Ian,*

Here, as arranged, is a draft Manifesto and a number of other related papers for the Prime Minister.

2. The Manifesto text is laid out in a way which, as you will see, provides plenty of room for marginal comments of all kinds. The text embodies the proposals put forward by colleagues except in a few cases where they were too trivial (or negative) to merit inclusion. Where possible their own words have been used. However a good deal of editorial effort has gone into abbreviation, reordering, and inserting suitable political glosses and linking words. I am also enclosing a set of the original letters from colleagues on which the draft was based in case the PM should need to refer back to them. I should note in passing that we have not yet had anything of a Scottish or Welsh character from Messrs Younger and Edwards. The Chancellor has written to each to ask for their material by next weekend, and has also discussed regional manifestos with the Chairman.

3. This draft reflects in many different ways the conclusions of a very extensive discussion of an earlier version last weekend, in which Cecil Parkinson, Keith Joseph, Nigel Lawson, Norman Tebbit, David Howell, the Chancellor, Ferdy Mount, Peter Cropper and I all took part. It has since been the subject of much literary polish at Ferdy's hands, and further tightening up by the Chancellor and myself.

4. The Chancellor would, I think, want to stress that it is not a finished or very polished document. Nonetheless it has been carried far enough for the text to display clearly and coherently the policy platform on which we might fight and to illustrate the kind of setting, themes and nuances of presentation which one might want to adopt. While much further checking and polishing would be possible, it is now necessary that further work should be informed by the Prime Minister's views, and that she should have an opportunity to consider various practical points about handling and time-table to which I return briefly below.

5. As further background, I am enclosing a complete set of the reports of the nine policy groups, which were also discussed at the Chancellor's recent meeting referred to above. As you

/may recall

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

11. I am also sending copies of this letter and text, but without the Policy Group material, to the Chairman, Ferdy Mount and the Chancellor.

*Yours*

*Alan*

A N RIDLEY

## POSSIBLE POINTS FOR THE INTRODUCTION

At the last election the British people voted for a change of course: to restore the balance of our society away from state, towards the individual and freedom; and to reverse our economic decline.

As this Manifesto records, we have made many major achievements in the past four years. But they are only a beginning.

We do not believe that dramatic changes are now needed ~~in~~ in the policies which led to those successes. Nor, we believe, do the British people want such changes.

As in 1979 we do not offer lavish and detailed policies and commitments, of which the electors of this country are rightly suspicious.

What we do promise is to continue to pursue with honesty and determination the goals and policies set out in this Manifesto.

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