



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

17th May 1983

Dear Sir,

I was very disappointed indeed that the announcement of the General Election prevented me from visiting the Borders as you had arranged for me to do. I very much hope that after the Election, with you as the Member of Parliament, it will be possible to rearrange my visit.

I was much looking forward to visiting Hawick again. Hawick traditionally typifies so many of those qualities of hard work, self-respect and independence that I admire so much. In particular, I was looking forward to seeing round Pringle's, and also to meeting representatives of the rest of the knitwear industry in Hawick, during my visit. I have been greatly impressed by the magnificent achievements of the knitwear industry in the Borders in spite of the enormous difficulties caused by the world recession, and now that it seems that we are pulling out of the recession, the knitwear industry in the Borders will be well placed to take advantage of new conditions.

Incidentally, I was very pleased that you were able to arrange for a delegation from the Hawick Knitwear Association to visit Peter Rees the other day at the Department of Trade. As the Minister responsible for the British input into the cashmere negotiations with the Chinese, coming up in the autumn, Peter, I know, found the meeting extremely useful. It will be one of the great benefits of having you as the MP for the Borders, that Border views will always be able to get straight through to a Conservative Government in this way.

Thinking about the knitwear industry, underlines one other reason, of course, why it is so important that a Conservative Government, which has already proved how it can bring down inflation, and interest rates, is returned at the Election. It is a grim thought what the spendthrift policies of any future Labour Government ~~under Michael Foot~~ would do to places like Hawick: rocketing inflation and interest rates would be inevitable under Labour and ruinous to the knitwear industry - as well as to so many other industries and businesses in the Borders. Labour's policy of taking this country out of the Common Market would also be disastrous for the knitwear industry - as well as for the Border farmers.

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I know that Borderers have always been too sensible in the past to vote Labour, and I am sure they will not vote Labour this time either. But it would be a tragedy for the Borders if by voting Liberal in the Borders, they ~~let Michael Foot and~~ the Socialists in at Westminster. The only way to keep the Socialists out of Government is by voting Conservative. And by voting for you as their Conservative MP, Borderers will have the satisfaction of knowing that they will have as their MP somebody who, as a Borderer himself, can put over the Border view where it really matters - with the next Conservative Government!

Yours

Iain Sproat Esq

Please keep out all
reference to Labour personalities
we fight on politics

SPROAT



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

19th May 1983

Shan Law,

I was very disappointed indeed that the announcement of the General Election prevented me from visiting the Borders as you had arranged for me to do. I very much hope that after the Election, with you as the Member of Parliament, it will be possible to rearrange my visit.

I was much looking forward to visiting Hawick again. Hawick traditionally typifies so many of those qualities of hard work, self-respect and independence that I admire so much. In particular, I was looking forward to seeing round Pringle's, and also to meeting representatives of the rest of the knitwear industry in Hawick, during my visit. I have been greatly impressed by the magnificent achievements of the knitwear industry in the Borders in spite of the enormous difficulties caused by the world recession, and now that it seems that we are pulling out of the recession, the knitwear industry in the Borders will be well placed to take advantage of new conditions.

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Thinking about the knitwear industry, underlines one other reason, of course, why it is so important that a Conservative Government, which has already proved how it can bring down inflation, and interest rates, is returned at the Election. It is a grim thought what the spendthrift policies of any future Labour Government would do to places like Hawick: rocketing inflation and interest rates would be inevitable under Labour and ruinous to the knitwear industry - as well as to so many other industries and businesses

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Iain Sproat Esq