

Final



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal15th September 1983

Dear Peter & Carly,

Thank you for your kind letter. It was so good of you to write from Venice.

With regard to Peter Campbell & N.A.T.O. We are lobbying hard. For your own information only. President Reagan has agreed but Chancellor Kohl who accepts that Peter would be quite the best candidate - is trying to

find out the position among his
C.I.U. colleagues in other European
countries. I shall be seeing him
again on Wednesday. It is
vital for N.A.T.O. and therefore
for Britain that Peter gets the job.
No other candidate can touch him.

We should love to see you
both again for a quiet evening.
I leave to-morrow (Monday) for a
visit to Holland then the British
Army of the Rhine. Next week I am

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group to Canada then the
United States. Not long after
that is the party conference. But
at least we have got a State
Opening of Parliament in October.

Every good wish to you
both

Love

Raymond

● Confidential.

Venice.

Box 19

7. Sept. 1983.

Dr. (Mrs. Lori) THORNEYCROFT -

Dear Margaret.

Carly is writing separately to wish you well from both of us and to say how happy we are to read of your recovery. These things always

take a little time and I don't suppose that your eyes get much opportunity to rest.

I write this letter however on a separate subject upon which I should like you to know my view but to which I ask for no reply.

Mus is giving up the Nato job. He has been a great friend and ally

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over many years and no doubt after his retirement you will find some way to tell him so.

His replacement is important particularly in a world drifting dangerously towards conflict. I recognise that Peter Cannington probably does not want the job and certainly won't ask for it. He ought however to have it. I remember after that first Election when you told me that you were offering him the F.O. because he has so much the best man. He would be by far in a way the best choice for N.A.T.O. It would give you leverage where you may find you desperately need it. I am sure Geoffrey Howe would share

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this view. If nothing is done the job will go to some other able man such as Mr. Tinderman but a vital opportunity will have been lost at a vital time.

These appointments are of course made as a result of who asks for them. If you & Mr. Reagan ask for Peter he will get the job. My guess is that the President would take your advice; if offered & I realise that Peter may not wish to accept, but he will not lightly refuse. Indeed he might well ask me before doing so and my advice would be strongly in favour of acceptance.

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I ask for no answer but
trust that this appointment
will not be decided by
inaction or the lack ~~of~~
~~lack~~ of an initiative which
could secure it in safe
hands not only for us
but for the West.

With all my love and
best wishes to you.

J. M.

Venice September 7th 1983

Dearest Margaret

We have not wanted to intrude upon your privacy and rest from the operation -

So many people must have submerged you with letters, and that is why we wired Denis instead -

But I can assure you, that you were very much in our thoughts, and we were very distressed to read you

news in the papers out here -

However, Thank God, it seems that the operation was a success, and I hope that your holiday will have put you on the road to complete recovery -

We were at San Marino for the whole of August, and Peter recovered very well -

I was very worried about him in July, but he is back in his old form again, and except for the limp in his left leg, he is

really very well and enjoying painting Venice -

Here, he certainly has a lot to paint, and I have plenty of work to keep me occupied with my restorations for "Venice in Peril" -

One day, I would dearly love you to come here to inaugurate one of our major works of art - I think you would be proud of the British lead in this field -
We return home on Sept. 15th -

and I will get in touch with
you to ask whether you and
Dennis would like to come for
a quiet dinner with us, either
alone or with a couple of
friends - Do not hesitate to
propose yourselves, but if you
are too busy we will quite
understand -

You are much in our thoughts
and we send you all our
best wishes and love

Carly
