



10 DOWNING STREET

17<sup>th</sup> October 1988

THE PRIME MINISTER

Personal

My dear Cecil,

Thank you for your generous letter of to-day. I am saddened beyond words by the loss of your great contribution to the work of Government and by the tragic circumstances in which it came about.

The list of offices which you have held in the last year since 1979, Minister of Trade, Paymaster General and Chairman of the Party, Chairman of the Party of Lancers and Secretary of the Central Department of Trade and Industry is sufficient evidence of how much I asked of you and how much I relied upon you. Your response was always outstanding.

Among the many memories, I will never forget your strength and staunchness during





10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

the Falklands crisis and the way in which you set about making difficult decisions in your department in the early weeks of this government. But in the history of our Party the magnificent election victory of 1983 will always be associated with your name: the organisation and high morale of central office and of the Party in the country will be remembered as your achievement. The debt which the Conservative Party owes to you is unsurpassed.

I need not tell you how deeply I and I have felt for you and Ann and your family during this difficult time. And we are enormously heartened by the way you are now looking to the future with great courage and the strength which comes from the family. I am cheered by the thought that we shall see you both often.





10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

I shall have need of your advice - and your support in the House.

For now I send my heartfelt thanks for your magnificent work in the service of Government and Party, and I join me in sending you and Ann and your daughter all our good wishes and kind thoughts for the future.

Yours ever

Raymond

---