



Mr. Sharbone

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

This was sent to me on a personal basis - but do please keep it.

London SW1A 2AH

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From the Secretary of State

18 January, 1984

I was asked whether it was consistent with the minute when the five minutes would be

John

sending. I said that I thought it was.

A.S.C. - 19.

As you know, it was felt at the last meeting of the group which I chair on policy for the European elections that it was desirable to have an early joint meeting with your Campaign Committee to ensure that we were working in a complementary fashion. John Houston raised this with you on my instructions and I understand you took the view that a joint meeting as such was not practical but, as I mentioned when we had a brief word earlier this week, I think that a meeting of the key people involved is now a very high priority.

Can we meet on Thursday, 26 January at 2.45 pm? I understand that this is possible for you, and for Henry Plumb. I would be happy for it to be held in my office if that is convenient for you; but would be equally happy to come to Central Office if that seemed more suitable.

I propose that Fred Catherwood and Edward Kellett-Bowman should be invited to attend and that part of the meeting should be devoted to giving Fred Catherwood an opportunity to explain his ideas on election themes. We would also need to discuss Ministerial involvement in the campaign, decisions on question of policy, and how to ensure themes in advertising and publicity are coherent with our manifesto themes. You may have some other matters you would wish to discuss. Peter Cropper's paper of 11 January to you which was copied to John Houston and which I have seen, provides a useful basis for our discussions.

John Selwyn Gummer Esq MP

/Because of



Because of their key role in the preparations, I think it would be useful to have a few of the professionals in attendance, namely Tony Garner, Angela Hooper, Peter Cropper, Andrew Tyrie, Adam Ridley and a maximum of two of Henry Plumb's senior staff.

I hope you find this helpful and look forward to your reply. I would be happy to arrange for the meeting to be set up.

GEOFFREY HOWE

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tony Garner', with a horizontal line underneath.