

The Half-House,

Nattybridge

Inverness-shire

16 June 1984

Da Prince Nicols,

Anne and I both enjoyed enormously the evening which you gave us at No. 10 on 14 June. Anne will be writing separately. But I must tell you myself how overwhelmed I was by your kindness and the happy family atmosphere. I felt so privileged to be in the State Dining Room at a dinner given for me(!) and I was very touched by all the kind things you said. Thank you for the picture - a lovely gesture.

Thank you too for the photograph and its inscription and your nice letter.

The last two and a half years have been magnificent. There were ups and downs - and some bad moments - but it was all so exciting and interesting. It was a very special period of British history -

in my view perhaps the last chance there is to avert the decline which made the country so defeatist and inward-looking for most of my working life. It is terribly important that the chance be taken because, as I said to you once before, I am sure that when the time comes for you to have to go we shall be faced with the consensus politics which were so marked a feature of the age of decline.

I am full of admiration for your efforts - and full of gratitude for all you have done for me. I can only thank you warmly for the privilege of letting me work for you - and say that if ever, after a respectable pause, you wanted me to work for you again in any capacity the answer will be yes.

With my warm best wishes to  
you and to Denis

John White,