



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

14 February 1985

CANADIAN NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION

Thank you for your letter of 13 February enclosing a telegram to the Prime Minister from the National Citizens' Coalition in Toronto.

The Prime Minister has no memory of the NCC arranging her visit to Canada while Leader of the Opposition. She would be content for the High Commissioner to reply to the telegram on her behalf as suggested in your letter.

Charles Powell

Peter Ricketts, Esq.,  
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.



Prime Minister

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Do you remember this group?

No. London SW1A 2AH

May we politely decline on your behalf?

13 February 1985

Dear Charles,

CDP 13/1. <sup>Yes</sup> <sub>not</sub>

Canadian National Citizens' Coalition

I enclose a telegram addressed to the Prime Minister from the National Citizens' Coalition (NCC) in Toronto, which was delivered to Wilton Park and thence the FCO. It proposes the award to the Prime Minister of honorary, lifetime membership in the NCC and asks whether the Prime Minister would accept an invitation from the Coalition "to speak to Canadians in Toronto".

We have consulted the High Commission in Ottawa, who tell us that the NCC is a right-wing lobbying/pressure group who have not sought representation in Parliament. They are well funded and able to run extensive advertisement campaigns. During the run-up to last year's General Election they fought successfully in the courts to block implementation of a legal provision designed to prevent abuses of election expenditure, but plausibly attacked by the NCC as infringing freedom of expression. Some earlier campaigns were less well judged, and they have on occasion been an embarrassment to the Progressive Conservatives.

Neither the High Commission nor the FCO have any records which throw light on the NCC's claim that they took the initiative in arranging Mrs Thatcher's visit to Canada while Leader of the Opposition.

We therefore recommend that the High Commission be instructed to reply to the telegram on the Prime Minister's behalf with the aim of deflecting them from giving the Prime Minister honorary lifetime membership of the NCC and declining the invitation to speak in Toronto. The reply would indicate that while the Prime Minister appreciates the gesture, she feels that for her to accept the membership, or speak under their auspices while Prime Minister, might be open to misunderstanding as indicating involvement in the internal political life of another country.

Z ever,  
P F Ricketts

(P F Ricketts)  
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq  
No 10 Downing Street

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Store Message 003

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ROYAL YORK TOR

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Store Message 004

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ROYAL YORK TOR

TO: THE RT. HON. MARGARET THATCHER, PC, MP,  
10 DOWNING ST.,  
LONDON,  
UNITED KINGDOM.

*Yel to Ottawa*

*R 9 B.V. 6 Feb*

*nted 5/11 A4/2*

*Bu 17 Feb for*

*28 1/2*

DEAR MADAM PRIME MINISTER,

THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION WISHES TO DO WHAT OXFORD UNIVERSITY IS CLEARLY UNWILLING TO DO - PRAISE YOU FOR YOUR WORK AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS ON BEHALF OF FREEDOM AND FREE ENTERPRISE:

THE BEST THAT WE AT THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION CAN DO TO RECOGNIZE YOUR YEARS OF SERVICE FOR FREEDOM AND FREE ENTERPRISE IS TO GIVE TO YOU AN HONORARY, LIFETIME MEMBERSHIP IN OUR ORGANIZATION.

WE HOPE THAT SINCE YOU NO LONGER HAVE A COMMITMENT TO SPEAK AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY, YOU CAN ACCEPT AN INVITATION, HEREBY EXTENDED, FROM THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION TO SPEAK TO CANADIANS IN TORONTO INSTEAD.

YOU MAY RECALL THAT IT WAS AT THE INSTIGATION OF THE NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION THAT YOU CAME TO CANADA TO SPEAK SEVERAL YEARS AGO WHEN YOU WERE LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION. WE STILL REMEMBER CLEARLY THE IMPORTANCE YOU ADDRESS.

OUR ORGANIZATION BELIEVES IN VALUES WHICH WE KNOW WE SHARE: MORE FREEDOM THROUGH LESS GOVERNMENT.

SINCERELY,  
COLIN M. BROWN  
PRESIDENT,  
NATIONAL CITIZENS' COALITION.

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ROYAL YORK TOR

.....  
End of Message 004

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