

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

27 November, 1984

The Prime Minister agreed to sign a message to Senator Tower, as suggested in your letter of 26 November. I enclose a signed version. I suggest that you telegraph the text and send the original by bag.

I am copying this letter and enclosure to Colin Budd (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Neil McMillan (Department of Trade and Industry).

C. D. POWELL

S. H. Lowe, Esq.,
Ministry of Defence

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FIE ECL
cc: FCO
M/S, DTI
MOD

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

27 November 1984

My dear Senator,

I understand that Oliver Wright is giving a dinner to honour your retirement from the Senate after 24 years of outstanding service. I could not let such an occasion pass without taking the opportunity to say how very much we in the United Kingdom have appreciated your work.

We are particularly grateful for your invaluable contribution to promoting the cause of NATO and our common defence during your time as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Your influence has consistently been used to strengthen transatlantic ties and to solve problems when they have arisen. You have been a staunch believer in strong defences and a champion of freedom. We on this side of the Atlantic owe an enormous debt to you.

You will be sadly missed. But I trust that you will continue to play a part in public life, where you have so much to offer.

Please let me know whenever you visit London. I shall look forward to seeing you

Yours sincerely

Margaret Thatcher

Senator John Tower

DRAFT MESSAGE FROM PRIME MINISTER TO SENATOR TOWER

~~You have~~ ~~been~~ ~~a~~ ~~champion~~ ~~of~~
~~strong~~ ~~defence~~
championed
strong defences and
collaboration in

I understand that Oliver Wright is giving a dinner to honour your retirement from the Senate after 24 years of ~~service~~ ~~(recognised outstanding)~~ service. I could not let such an occasion pass without taking the opportunity to say how ~~very~~ ~~much~~ we in the United Kingdom have appreciated your work.

We are particularly grateful for your invaluable contribution to promoting the cause of NATO and our common defence during your time as Chairman of the Armed Services Committee. Your influence has ~~led to a bridging of the trans-Atlantic gap, and a~~ ~~closer understanding within NATO of our common problems~~ ~~to work for to solve problems when they have arisen. We on~~ ~~this side of the Atlantic owe an enormous debt to you~~ ~~consistently~~ ~~been~~ ~~used~~ ~~to~~ ~~strengthen~~ ~~transatlantic~~ ~~ties~~ ~~and~~

~~Although~~ ~~you~~ ~~will~~ ~~be~~ ~~sadly~~ ~~missed,~~ ~~I~~ ~~trust~~ ~~that~~ ~~you~~ ~~will~~ ~~continue~~ ~~to~~ ~~play~~ ~~a~~ ~~part~~ ~~in~~ ~~public~~ ~~life,~~ ~~where~~ ~~you~~ ~~have~~ ~~so~~ ~~much~~ ~~to~~ ~~offer.~~

You have been a staunch believer in strong defences and a champion of freedom.

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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
MAIN BUILDING WHITEHALL LONDON SW1

Telephone 01-~~430XXXX~~ 218 2111/3

MO 14/2

26th November 1984

Dear Charles

SENATOR JOHN TOWER

Senator John Tower, the senior Senator for Texas, chose not to run for re-election this year, and will therefore be retiring from the Senate in January, after 24 years service. For the past 4 years he has been Chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee; in this capacity he has acted as the chief proponent in Congress of President Reagan's defence build-up. Sir Oliver Wright has suggested that the Prime Minister may wish to write to him.

Senator Tower is a noted Anglophile of long standing. He is also a staunch believer in the American commitment to the defence of Europe, and in the two-way street in defence equipment. He has used his Chairmanship of the Armed Services Committee to promote these views, and in doing so has been an invaluable friend and ally to the United Kingdom. It is probably true to say that without him, the wave of protectionism in defence procurement, and of efforts to legislate the Europeans out of several sectors of the US defence market, would not have receded. We would be faced today with a much more serious situation with inevitable political implications for European Governments. In addition, Senator Tower's help has been unstinting in sustaining such programmes as the Hawk, the AV8 B and the 81 mm Mortar.

It is thought unlikely that Senator Tower will fade from the US political scene when he leaves the Senate. He has an outstanding international reputation, is an acknowledged expert on defence matters and is in good standing with the Republican Party. He has been mentioned as a possible future successor to Mr Weinberger.

Sir Oliver Wright is hosting a dinner for Senator Tower on Thursday 29th November, in order to mark his departure from the Senate and to express our thanks for his past efforts.

C Powell Esq

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Sir Oliver believes that it would be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send a message for him to use at the dinner, and a suitable draft is attached. The Defence Secretary will also be sending a message, as will Mr Pattie who had much to do with Senator Tower when a Minister in this department.

If the Prime Minister agrees to write along these lines, it might be most convenient if her message were signalled along with Mr Heseltine's. I would therefore be grateful if you could send me a copy of the final version.

I am sending a copy of this letter and attachment to Colin Budd (FCO), and to Neil McMillen in Mr Pattie's office.

Yours ever

Simon Lowe
(S H LOWE)