

TermI think that
I should attendPRIME MINISTERBREAKFASTSthese breakfasts
(reluctantly!)

CC: Mr Powell ✓
 Mr Norgrove
 Mr Flesher
 Mrs. Ryder
 Mr Alison
 Mr Ingham
 Mr Sherbourne

Could MLW
leave room for me?

You have agreed with Caroline to hold breakfasts on Wednesday, 20 November and on Wednesday, 18 December. These occasions might provide you with the opportunity to discuss, informally, governmental and political issues which have a longer time perspective than normal day-to-day government business. They might focus particularly on issues with electoral implications. They should not be used for specific subjects which are best considered in official government committee.

Your breakfast table seats eight. So allowing for a supporter from No.10, this allows for six invitees, one of whom might be, as appropriate, the Lord President, the Chief Whip or the Chairman.

With this in mind, possibilities for breakfast discussions, not in order of priority, are set out below. The precise attendance can be established when the theme for each breakfast is agreed:

- i. a departmental team of Ministers for a discussion of a major departmental issue, e.g.

DHSS - future of the health service,

DES - standards of schools/future of higher education (though this duplicates some of the recent seminar discussion),

DOE - how the Government can capitalise
on environment/conservation/green issues,

Department of Employment - further trade union
reform etc.

ii. a group of Ministers from different Departments to
discuss eg,

inner city development,

what more to do on job creation,

how to bring down the growth of real wages (or more
strictly unit labour costs?

iii. A group of outsiders to discuss the sort of topics
listed in i. and ii. above.

iv. a Commons Whips' breakfast on e.g. strengthening
communications with the backbenchers about Government
policy (the Chief Whip would need to be consulted about
this).

v. some senior backbenchers on Government/backbench
relationships on e.g. strengthening communications with
the backbenchers about Government policy (again the Chief
Whip will need to be consulted about this).

vi. some junior Ministers to discuss a theme like "What is
the Government's biggest problem and what should we do
about it?" Junior Ministers might be chosen from:-

Mr. Moore

Mr. Gummer

Mr. Pattie

Mr. Bottomley

Mr. Hunt

Mr. Lamont

Mr. Hayhoe

Mrs. Chalker

Mr. John Patten

Mr. Chris Patten

Mr. Waldegrave

Junior Ministers not invited may feel discriminated against, but that cannot be helped.

vii. vi. above but with some backbenchers, (though they are well catered for in the meetings which Michael Alison arranges. The Chief Whip would need to be consulted.)

These suggestions, which reflect consultation with copy recipients, may prompt ideas of your own. My recommendation would be for a discussion on inner city development or environment/conservation/green issues with a group of Ministers or outsiders.

What do you think?

When you have decided the theme, we will suggest invitees.

N.L.W.

4 October 1985

BREAKFAST
MEETINGS

MR. WICKS

cc. Mr. Powell Mr. Norgrove
Mr. Flesher Mrs. Ryder
Mr. Alisda Mr. Ingham

15/10

Thank you for sending me your draft minute about breakfast meetings.

My own view is that they should provide the Prime Minister with an opportunity to discuss, informally, governmental and political issues which have a longer time perspective than normal day to day government business. I would prefer subjects which have electoral implications. eg: unemployment and job creation; trade union reform; the health service. (I have no doubt we can think of more or better suggestions if we put out heads together.)

Once subjects are agreed, names will fall more easily into place.

I would be opposed to having a breakfast devoted to subjects as vague as "general presentation of policy" or "Conservative Party matters".

S.S.

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

3.10.85

MR. POWELL

MR. NORGROVE

MR. FLESHER

MRS. RYDER

MR. ALISON ✓

MR. INGHAM

MR. SHERBOURNE

I attach a draft of a minute that I want to put to the Prime Minister about invitees for breakfast.

Any comments?

In particular, could recipients suggest:

- (i) names of senior backbenchers who might be invited for the general political discussion;
- (ii) which Junior Ministers might be invited.
Possibilities might include:

Mr. Gummer
Mr. Moore
Mr. Hayhoe
Mrs. Chalker

- (iii) names who might be invited to the "How to improve the presentation of Government policy" discussion.

If recipients have better ideas for these breakfast occasions, they are very welcome.

Finally, could Mr. Alison/Mr. Sherbourne check that nothing suggested here cuts across their arrangements for meetings between the Prime Minister and the backbenchers.

Comments please by 5 p.m. tomorrow, 2 October.

Duty Clerk
NIGEL WICKS *N.*
1 October 1985

PRIME MINISTER

BREAKFASTS

You have agreed with Caroline to hold breakfasts on Wednesday 20 November and on Wednesday 18 December. In this minute I seek your views on themes for the discussion and the six invitees (plus you and one supporter, making 8 in all).

Possibilities, not in order of priority, are:

1. A departmental team eg Ministers, and the Permanent Secretary if there is room, from, say, DES, or DOE, Transport, DHSS, Welsh Office, Scottish Office, or MAFF.
2. A Party/Central Office breakfast (the Chairman will need to be consulted on this).
3. Some senior backbenchers for general political discussion.
4. A Commons' Whips breakfast (the Chief Whip would need to be consulted about this).
5. Some of the new and promoted Ministers, e.g.

Mr Clarke,
Mr MacGregor,
Mr Baker,
Mr John Patten,
Mr Chris Patten,
Mr Waldegrave.

6. Some Junior Ministers to discuss themes like "What have we got to do to win the next Election" or "What is the Government's biggest problem and what should we do about it?"

7. A "How to improve the presentation of Government policy" discussion but going wider than the Lord President and the Chairman to include e.g. some senior backbenchers (Sir Eldon Griffiths), a Cabinet Minister (e.g. Mr Fowler), and a presentationally conscious Minister of State (Mr Chris Patten).

These thoughts may prompt your own. My suggestion is that for the first two breakfasts we should choose a Departmental team breakfast (say DES or DOE), and the presentation breakfast along the lines of 7. above.

What do you think?

NIGEL WICKS

October 1985