

PRIME MINISTER

You should be aware that the Young Conservatives have suddenly invited Michael Heseltine to speak at the YC Conference next month, literally one hour before the Chairman himself is due to make his own speech - which will be the first big speech he makes after his return from hospital.

It is obviously important that No. 10 keep out of this. But Jeffrey Archer has talked to me privately, and Michael Alison and I have advised him that, subject to the Chairman's agreement, Russell Sanderson should be wheeled in forcefully to get the YCs to rescind their invitation.

Steve

I think it is ridiculous to do so
not

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

22.1.86

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E. R.

PRIME MINISTER

I told you that the Young Conservatives had invited Michael Heseltine to address their conference. The Chairman took the view, like you, that the invitation could not now be withdrawn and no attempt should be made to do so. But I think the speaking order has been re-arranged so that there is a speaker after Michael Heseltine and before the Chairman himself speaks.

SP

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STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

29.1.86