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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP

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With the compliments of the Chairman

HENRY PLUMB

Conservative and Unionist Party, GB
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Ulster Unionist Party, N. Ireland



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EUROPEAN DEMOCRATIC GROUP

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Sir Henry Plumb, DL, MEP

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1st April, 1986

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP
Chairman,
Conservative and Unionist Party,
Conservative Central Office,
32 Smith Square,
London SW1P 3HH

Dear Norman,

Thank you for your letter of 27th March. I am sorry that Teddy Taylor has been directing to you complaints that might more appropriately have been directed to me. I am equally sorry that certain of my colleagues, in their zeal to defend Party policy on the European Community, have given him occasional grounds for complaint. I shall do my best to ensure that those grounds are removed for the future: I certainly should not wish Teddy's political estrangement from the rest of the Party on European questions to be an occasion for personal unpleasantness.

I quite understand the embarrassment caused to you by continuing controversy between Teddy Taylor and those, such as ourselves, who support HMG's policy towards the European Community. I am delighted to hear that you will be seeking to restrain the Member for Southend in his attacks on the Government's European policy: such attacks sow discord in our own ranks and bring solace to our opponents. I sometimes find it difficult, I must confess, to distinguish between Teddy Taylor's view of the European Community and Robin Cook's. As the Prime Minister remarked to the CPS the other day, the battle of ideas must constantly be refought - but preferably against one's political opponents rather than one's own Party!

In view of the forthcoming meeting between the Prime Minister and the European Reform Group, I am taking the liberty of sending to Downing Street a copy of this letter and your letter to me.

*Yours ever,
Henry*

HENRY PLUMB

c.c. The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, MP