

*Prime Minister See my note below.
W.S.W.*

PRIME MINISTER

THE CHAIRMAN AND THE BBC

I asked Michael Dobbs to convey your views to the Chairman this evening that for the reasons you explained you would prefer the Chairman not to send the letter and that if he really were anxious to do so he should take the views of colleagues at Monday's Strategy Group meeting. In reply, Michael said the timing was crucial because they had somebody ready to write a helpful piece in the Sunday press.

Nigel Wicks and I are both concerned that this matter does not get out of hand and that Douglas Hurd does not feel that he has not been consulted.

We both realise that you have a busy morning tomorrow (Friday) before you depart for Washington. But we thought it might be helpful, after all these exchanges at Private Secretary level, if you were to see the Chairman yourself for ten minutes.

Would you like to see the Chairman for ten minutes tomorrow morning to discuss this?

Steven,

*1 with by
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STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

13 November 1986