

2nd December, 1980

Thank you for your letter of 1st December.

Certainly since she became Prime Minister, and so far as I know since she became Leader of our Party, Mrs. Thatcher has never refused to see any Member or Group of Members who take the Conservative Whip in either House of Parliament.

The Prime Minister's readiness to see Conservative Members of Parliament in either House is one which I have found is very greatly appreciated by our colleagues.

I need hardly say that willingness to listen implies neither approval nor disapproval of the views which are expressed.

I certainly hope that you and your colleagues will not be discouraged. The Prime Minister and the Government are committed, wholeheartedly, to Britain's continuing Membership of the Community.

Do please have a word with me about this if you would like to do so.

IAN GOW

Sir Anthony Meyer, Bt. M.P.
House of Commons,
Westminster, London SW1

c.c. Hugh Dykes, Esq. M.P.

From SIR ANTHONY MEYER MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

1st December 1980

Dear Sir

I read with concern in today's press that Margaret is to receive Teddy Taylor and his so-called European Reform Group. She must surely be aware that this Group is merely a fig-leaf to conceal Teddy Taylor's well known determination to get Britain out of the European Community. The very last thing the Party should be doing at this time is to confer respectability on this operation.

It is, moreover, most discouraging for those of us who are labouring to strengthen the Party's support for the Government's policy in Europe. You may know that I am now trying to organise proper briefing for those who have declared their readiness to stand up and be counted on this issue. But it knocks the stuffing out of us when Margaret appears to countenance the disloyalty of Teddy and others.

I have purposely avoided any publicity for our Group since I do not want to give the impression that the Party is evenly divided between those who support and those who oppose the Government's policy on Europe. But if Margaret is seen to be countenancing the activities of Teddy Taylor's Group, we shall be compelled to seek publicity for our activity, and I cannot believe this would be in the best interests of the Party.

I am sending a copy of this letter to Hugh Dykes.

Ian Gow Esq MP
House of Commons

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