

STANBROOK, M.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

Private and
Confidential.

16th December, 1980

Thank you very much for your letter of 11th December, letting me know about the lunch which was held at your flat on the previous day.

I am only sorry that not able to be there.

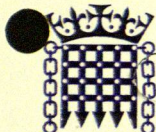
It was very good of you to have taken the trouble to write and I have shown your letter to the Prime Minister.

Ian Gow

Ivor Stanbrook, Esq., M.P.

FROM: IVOR STANBROOK M.P.

14



11th December 1980

Dear Ian,

We had a very interesting lunch at my flat yesterday when we were joined by Enoch Powell, John Loveridge, Neville Trotter, Kenneth Carlisle, David G. Bevan, Nick Budgeon and Den Dover.

Enoch was in good form, having browbeaten Robin Day in a "World at One" programme which we heard during the lunch. He holds the Foreign Office responsible for the wording of the communique on the talks in Dublin. He sees the use of words like "institutional structures" as the beginning of a softening-up of British opinion on the way to disposing of the "problem" of Northern Ireland in the same way as the F.O. wants to dispose of the Falkland Islands.

He thought the P.M. was becoming increasingly isolated in Cabinet because she lacks the backing of one or two older substantial members loyal to her. Willie Whitelaw and Keith Joseph were mentioned and he said they do not fit his description. I asked whether he supported the P.M.'s economic policies: he said he did and added "and national



-2-

policies". We did not get on to the subject of the E.E.C. but he said that insofar as he was able to be in contact with the P.M. (from across the Chamber) he tried to be helpful to her cause.

He thought it would be a mistake any longer to try to make ends meet without increasing direct taxes. A short fight over an increase of "three or four pence" on the income tax in the Finance Bill would soon be forgotten. No one on our side would vote against the Finance Bill. But the prolonged agony of the never-ending series of cuts in public services would fester resentment and aggravation more damaging in the long run.

He was asked about his apparent change of attitude towards holding India and the recruitment of West Indian nurses when Minister of Health. A long time ago: conditions were different.

Most of the group had never met him personally before. All were impressed by him and bemoaned the waste of his talent. He for his part was I think genuinely pleased to have the opportunity for further contact with Tory colleagues.

Yours sincerely,

727 5298

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