

Du Cann, M.P.

From: the Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Private

26 February
1981

My dear Ian.

It is very good of you to have sent me a personal note in the way in which you did. I am sorry I did not have the opportunity to tell the Prime Minister in advance about the Observer. I have worked very hard on this and I think that the implications for our Party can be substantial. Unfortunately not all of my colleagues in the Lonrho Company are as sympathetic to the Government as I am, and it is problematical whether I can get things moving in exactly the way I want. For that reason it is important to know of the Prime Minister's thinking at the moment when I am involved in these matters.

The 1922 Committee had a meeting with the National Union Officers and Area Chairmen yesterday. I would like to tell the Prime Minister about the tone of the meeting. It was not good I thought.

And I dislike the letter from Wiltshire ~~Members~~ in the Times newspaper yesterday, not so much for what they said but the fact of it.

We are moving into very troublesome waters and we shall perhaps need to work a good deal more closely together with the Prime Minister.

I agree with you; we really must see if we can cut down the size of the burden she is carrying. Of course she has an intensely personal style, and her conscientiousness is admirable, but harsh reality will dictate that a higher priority has to be given to some affairs and a lower priority to others.

Ian Gow, Esq., M.P.

[Handwritten signature and scribbles]

Du CANN, R.P.



10 DOWNING STREET

Personal

25th February, 1981

I tried to talk to you on the telephone this morning, but you had just left for the Office of Fair Trading.

I spoke to your Secretary and she said that you would be able to come to see the Prime Minister here at 6.15 p.m. on Monday, 2nd March, which is the day following her return from Washington.

I am genuinely sorry about last evening, and so is the Prime Minister. Of course I understand that you have the right to see the Prime Minister at any time, and I am grateful to you for being so understanding. The truth is that the Prime Minister has a major speech to make at lunch time today and six major speeches in the United States during the next three days.

You and I share a concern about the burden which she is carrying.

Ian Gow

The Rt. Hon. Edward du Cann, M.P.