

Parkinson

5th July 1982

You handed to me this morning a letter which you had not sent (dated 29th June) and a draft letter for the Prime Minister to send to Cabinet colleagues about Geoffrey's role for the next Manifesto.

You and I had agreed that, in fact, it would not be appropriate for the Prime Minister to send a letter to her Cabinet colleagues, but that it would be better for her to have a word about this after the main Cabinet business is over.

The Prime Minister would like you and Geoffrey to submit to her your joint recommendations for the terms of reference and membership for the Groups concerned.

Could you please let me have your thoughts about this. You and I can then discuss the matter with the Prime Minister.

IAN GOW

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP

Parkinson

From
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY
The Rt. Hon. Cecil Parkinson M.P.

CONSERVATIVE & UNIONIST CENTRAL OFFICE,
32 SMITH SQUARE,
WESTMINSTER, SW1P 3HH,
Telephone: 01-222 9000

CEP/SO

29th June 1982

I wonder whether the Prime Minister could send a letter to Cabinet colleagues along the lines of the enclosed draft.

Geoffrey Howe would be in a better position to involve the cooperation of colleagues in defining the terms of reference of the Policy Groups, and selecting members, if his appointment as joint convenor of the Groups (with me) had been notified.

I do not think any public announcement is called for.

Ian Gow, Esq., MP.,
10 Downing Street.

DRAFT LETTER PRIME MINISTER TO CABINET COLLEAGUES

In discussion with Cecil Parkinson I have decided that the time is right for setting up a small range of policy groups. These groups will explore salient policy areas from the point of view of the manifesto and the period of Conservative administration beyond.

I have asked Geoffrey Howe to work with Cecil (and with Peter Cropper) on identifying terms of reference and membership for the groups. They will aim to ensure that all sections of the Party are represented in this work.

PC/lf
28.6.82