

Chairman

1. MR. WICKS NLU 12-1

2. PRIME MINISTER

As you know the Chairman is still concerned about the quote attributed to him by Hugo Young (article attached). Despite having written to both Mr. Kinnock and The Guardian denying it, the quote is working its way into currency. The Chairman is anxious both to kill it and to discourage others from using similar tactics. He is therefore considering taking legal advice about the possibility of taking action against The Guardian; but does not wish to proceed without your agreement. I imagine he would also have to consult the Attorney General before proceeding.

Would you like me to suggest that he talked to the Attorney General and that both should then report to you before the Chairman proceeds down this path?

→ I had Brian's 'yes' - & so will let Ni.
Sp. 8/12/11

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE
12.1.87

Chairman

PRIME MINISTER

c.c. Mr Wicks
Mr Ingham

1. The Chairman has issued a writ against "The Guardian" seeking withdrawal and damages.
2. This should have reached them by 1.00pm and the news will break no doubt very soon.
3. His Office is notifying all Ministers and asking them to refrain from comment.
4. The Chancellor of the Duchy's Office is talking directly to Bernard about how this should be handled at the Lobby this afternoon.

SS

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

23.1.87

Chairman

PRIME MINISTER

I attach a copy of the Attorney General's view that he is content for the Chairman to take action against The Guardian.

I know your opinion and, in order to avoid any unnecessary delay, I have already told the Chairman that you are happy with him to proceed.

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STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

22.1.87

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Dear Norman,

Thank you for following
my advice to consult R

Alexander QC.

I have now seen the
summary of his advice and
am content that you

proceed in accordance with
that advice.

Good luck!

Yours etc.

Michael