

cc: [unclear]

PRIME MINISTER

John MacGregor and the Manifesto

You are seeing the Chancellor tomorrow (Wednesday). I think you should take the opportunity to tell him that you are going to ask John MacGregor\* to chair the Manifesto drafting team. The purpose of this will be to give the team political direction in advance of a first draft being submitted to you. I hope this appointment will not become public knowledge and you may wish to emphasise this point to the Chancellor.

You are in fact seeing John MacGregor later that evening when, of course, I will be present.

SS

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

10.3.87

1.59/16

- \* 1. You are asking John MacGregor as himself, and not as Chief Secretary.
- 2. He is already Chairman of the Party's Advisory Committee on Policy (having succeeded Keith Joseph.)

SS

Tess fixing up  
Meeting

PRIME MINISTER

John MacGregor and Manifesto

I have talked privately to Nigel Wicks about our thought that John MacGregor might chair the Manifesto team to ensure that what comes to you as a first draft is indeed a Manifesto and appropriate. The question left unresolved after you and I talked this morning (Friday) was whether you should have a word with Nigel Lawson before you get John MacGregor in to see you. Nigel Wicks and I believe that you should see John MacGregor first. After all you would not be asking him to take this on as Chief Secretary. Moreover he is already Chairman of the Party's Advisory Committee on Policy (succeeding Keith Joseph).

Are you happy to proceed in this way?

*Ananda*

PP STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

6.3.87

*Yes not*

PRIME MINISTER

Manifesto

Now that the contributions from Ministers are coming in, the work must begin and the people primarily involved in producing the first draft of the Manifesto will be Brian Griffiths, Robin Harris and John O'Sullivan. Robin has already begun work both on the achievements section for the Manifesto and on working out slogans for the key areas.

I am concerned to ensure that this work is done effectively, that deadlines are met so you have a draft manifesto complete before the end of May, just in case; that you should not have to worry too much yourself about the progress being made; but that you are assured that the Manifesto work is along the lines you want and under your effective control.

As you know, my worry is that the present plans for drafting the manifesto are too sloppy. I believe very strongly that when the first draft goes to you, it must be in good shape. If it is in unsatisfactory embryonic form, it will take up too much of your time, and you will feel that you alone have to put the thing straight. This is why I believe profoundly that the Manifesto team need to produce their first draft under the supervision of a politician. Brian Griffiths and Robin Harris support me on this one hundred per cent.

You and I have talked about this and I accept your reluctance to do it. One difficulty has been finding a suitable politician.

Brian Griffiths and I have now had a further thought: George Younger.

He has the following advantages:

(i) he is full of sound political commonsense.

(ii) he is well liked in all sections and wings of the Party.

...../

(iii) he has no axe to grind, nor is he so closely involved with any domestic policy that he will unbalance the manifesto.

(iv) his experience in Scotland has given him a wide knowledge of domestic matters and he has in the past produced his own Manifesto for Scotland.

If you were to agree, I see the Manifesto team working has follows:-

- (a) intitial meeting held by you with George Younger and manifesto team for a general discussion
- (b) manifesto team produces first draft for George Younger
- (c) George Younger considers and amends first draft
- (d) a reasonably written draft, having already been overseen by one of your senior colleagues, is then submitted to you.

Dates will be set for completion of first draft and second draft and it will be George Younger's specific responsibility to see that these deadlines are met.

Would you like to follow this up?

S

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

27.2.87