

NOTE OF A MEETING WITH LORD YOUNG

Wednesday, 1st April, 1987

1. DY was going to work out a timetable of deadlines which would have to be met if there were a 4th June or 11th June election.
2. Manifesto: I told him that somebody at CCO should be given specific responsibility for the production of the Manifesto, and my suggestion was Chris Lawson.
3. Meeting with the Prime Minister on Tuesday, 21st April: DY thought it should last a full day, divided into three parts:
 - a) PM's tours;
 - b) Manifesto;
 - c) General Strategy;with different people being present for each part of the day.
4. On tours, DY was going to do his own "private enterprise", receiving the proposals of Area Agents and then doing his own evaluation and amendment. But the question is: who puts the final proposals to the Prime Minister for the 21st April meeting?
5. On the Manifesto again, the 21st April meeting will have to decide how we discuss relevant sections with relevant Ministers: should MacGregor and Young be deputed to do this with the relevant Ministers, with the PM as final Court of Appeal? The Manifesto draft would then go to the Strategy Group for a proper discussion and would later on go to Cabinet for final approval.

6. On strategy, my concerns were:
 - a) the Alliance, ie who goes for them, how do we go for them, how do we frighten voters about a hung Parliament, do we take a bold course;
 - b) we need to divide Ministers into three groups: those who are positive, eg the Prime Minister; those who go for the hard attack against Labour; and those who, with more reasonableness, must woo back defectors to the Alliance;
 - c) we have got to get the argument on to "strong leadership" and how a weak result would lead to weak government.

7. We need to discuss the format of the launch of the Manifesto and should it be part of, or separate from, the Candidates' Conference?

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

1.4.87

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