

Strictly Personal

Prime Minister

C.D.P.

STRICTLY PERSONAL



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

13 June 1987

Dear Prime Minister,

Carla and I send you our warmest congratulations on your remarkable election victory - and even more on the fantastic personal effort which achieved it. If ever a party and a country were carried to success on the shoulders of one person, it has been over this last eight years, and the election was the reward. People are not half so stupid as journalists and television commentators believe them to be! They know you are right and what you are doing is right and they respect you for it - because they feel better as a result.

All the same I hope that you will not put yourself through it again. The level of personal abuse thrown at you during the campaign was unbelievable and must take some toll, however stoic you are outwardly. There comes a point when your reputation and standing as a historic figure are more important to your party, to your cause and to the country than even you yourself can be, and its not right that you should be subjected to a further round like this time. I fear that, because the left know that they cannot defeat you on substance, they will only redouble this abuse over the next few years. In two or three years time, you will have completed the most sweeping change this country has seen in decades and your place in history will be rivalled in this century only by Churchill. That's the time to contribute in some other area!

I also think that the election campaign demonstrates that you are at your best when you go direct to the people. The House of Commons magnifies petty issues like Westland and the Wright case, which simply don't matter at all in the country at large, yet distract from the real business of government. It will be worse in the next Parliament, with its large number of hard left members. You must not let them cage you, but take your case when necessary to the wider national audience.

Finally - and although none of this is any of my business! - I hope you will continue to devote time to foreign affairs. I know there are some pressing problems at home where you have to ram solutions through. But more than ever these next few years, the rest of the world will look to you for leadership. I fear that it will add even more to your burdens: but no-one else can give it.

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We both wish you every success. It's been a tremendous privilege to witness the events of the last three years at close quarters, for which we will also be grateful. Thank you.

This is typed to save your eyes. There are no copies.

With affection & respect,

Charles & Celia

CHARLES POWELL

The Right Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, F.R.S., M.P.