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From:
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY
Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit

21st October 1987

R Prime Minister,

I'm glad to say that with floods, storms and stock market crashes to write about the press has given the matter of the Party chairmanship a rest. No doubt the speculation will start again when David returns from China on Friday.

The unfortunate leak of parts of Satachis draft letter which I gave you before your departure for Vancouver was well handled by Satachis. However, their confirmation that they wish to resign the account has been read by the press as part of a deck clearing operation before the appointment of the new chairman.

In my view continuing speculation is harmful to you, the Party and Government and I hope that you will not allow it to continue.

I am committed to a visit to the U.S. as Party Chairman, leaving on Sunday 25th, returning on Thursday 29th. It would be unfortunate if that had to be cancelled. Equally I am sure that I should leave this office by Friday 30th to give the new chairman a clear start on Monday 2nd.

Finally, as you know I am neither depressed nor elated by single opinion polls. However it may be of interest that we have just recorded a rating of more than 50% for the first time since March 1979, in our Gallup tracking polls.

f. ever,
Norman

The Prime Minister.