



AH. *LAH*

10 DOWNING STREET  
LONDON SW1A 2AA

*From the Private Secretary*

23 February 1988

We had a word this morning about the Whips' invitation to the Prime Minister to dine with them in the summer.

The Prime Minister would herself very much like to invite the Whips and their wives to lunch at Chequers during the summer, and I believe that Nigel Wicks has had a word with the Chief Whip about this. In view of this, it is felt that to do both a lunch and a dinner would be too much for an already overcrowded summer diary.

The Prime Minister would like to invite the Whips and their wives to lunch on Sunday 3 July, but to decline the Whips' invitation to dinner this year.

Please could you let me know if this date suits the Chief Whip's diary. And please could you pass on the Prime Minister's grateful thanks to the Whips for their invitation, but explain the reasons behind the refusal.

Many thanks,

**MRS. TESSA GAISMAN**

Miss Robina Finlay,  
Chief Whips' Office

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr. Hamilton

**WHIPS' DINNER**

**LUNCH FOR WHIPS AND WIVES AT CHEQUERS**

We discussed these two events at the diary meeting on Tuesday. I have had a closer look at the diary for the summer and there are two Sundays - 3 and 20 July - when it would be possible to invite Whips and wives to lunch at Chequers.

I have yet to go back to the Whips' Office about their invitation to you to attend the Whips' Dinner "towards the end of the Session". But before doing so I wanted to make sure that you really did want to accept their invitation this year. As you know, July is already becoming fairly heavily booked up and you will be seeing all MPs at the receptions here. Because of the Economic Summit and European Council, Sundays in June are not possible for the lunch and it might be a bit too much to have the lunch in July and also attend a dinner for the Whips. Would it not be better to give the lunch, and then consider an invitation to dine with them next year?

TESSA GAISMAN

17 February 1988