

PRIME MINISTER

Drinks for MPs

Your next date for drinks with MPs is 9th May, and I have booked this with George Younger as a "Defence" meeting to which the Officers of the Defence Backbench Committee and the Defence Select Committee will be invited.

I have to tell you that Michael Mates is Chairman of the Defence Select Committee and Barney Hayhoe is a Member. I do feel strongly, though, that this meeting should go ahead. The subject under discussion is completely unconnected with the Community Charge, and it would not be right to close what is considered by your backbenchers as a useful and valuable channel of communication.

I hope you are content for the meeting to go ahead.

*Just... MS*

*AH.*

ARCHIE HAMILTON

27.4.88