

24/11/89

Prime Minister

I am reporting on activities since you left for the U.S.A.

1. The 1922. Cranley concluded his invitation for nominations with the words that it was "the unanimous view of the Executive that an election was an irrelevant and unnecessary distraction". There was widespread applause. Julian Amery spoke - "The Tory party was a broad church. He had tried to contact Anthony Meyer without success. He regretted the contest. In our history we have had rows over great issues such as the Corn Laws, but what was this one about? It was about presentation and emphasis, and not an issue on which we should upset the party in the country. It would only help our opponents, and would cause damage in marginal seats. Jonathan Sayeed spoke for those in the marginal seats and John Butterfill asked whether the rules of the election could be altered so that the proposer and seconders' names could be disclosed. Robert Hughes drew attention to the consultation process with Constituency parties and Ian Gow made the humorous point that ~~he~~ he would not be proposing any candidate himself.
2. I shall refer in all future notes to the group who are coming to lunch on Saturday as "Your team". They are of course George Younger, Ian Gow, Tristan Garel-Jones, Richard Ryder, Bill Shelton, and myself. As you know George is bringing Diana and they must leave at 1.45 pm, so the lunch has been brought forward to 12.45 pm.
3. Your team has had several meetings and we will be meeting on Sunday evening in Tristan's house. Thereafter we will have meetings

at 9.30 AM every day in the House. One thing I must tell you. Ian Gow was guilty of an inadvertent indiscretion in that he told Kenneth Baker (who telephoned him on Thursday morning) that he thought George Younger might be leading your campaign. While none of us feel that George should make any announcement at this stage, he will do so if the situation develops so that he must but he will in such an event speak ^{in advance} to Kenneth Baker, Geoffrey Howe, and Peter Lane L.

4. This morning I took Alistair McAlpine into my confidence. He has loaned us the services of Shana Hole to be secretary to your team. She will be paid by Alistair and will operate from an office in the House which has been located by Tristan. It will be equipped ^{by Alistair} and in operation from Monday morning.

5. Your team feel that there should be another group whom I will refer to in future as "other activists". We feel that the other activists should be organised in a cell structure so that each does not know the existence of other members. They will be able to operate discretely and we suggest they start on Monday.

The suggested names for other activists are:-

6.
 pr79 { George Young
 George Gardner
 Michael Topling

79 { John Wheeler
 Gerry Neale

83 { Steve Norris
 Nick Soames
 Andrew Mackay

We wish to take further advice on another 2 names from the 87 intake. Gerry Neale is wise at the request of George Younger. George Younger and Nick Soames will need careful handling. We are sure they will support you in the ballot, but ~~they~~ ^{neither} may ~~not~~ wish to be one of your activists. However, I am sure you will appreciate the need to have wise on the left of the party among your activists.

6. Your team has been working on a list of names and we have identified a few whom we feel should be approached at an early stage. However the list is as yet very rough + I see no point in giving you a copy at this stage.

7. Your team has worked very well. We have immense respect for George Younger. It was Tristan's brilliant idea to suggest him. Richard Ryder has also been immensely imaginative and helpful.

8. We suggest that we discuss tomorrow :-

(a) approval for what we have done

(b) Your comments on the suggested other activists. None have been approached so far.

(c) A discussion on Europe. George is concerned that he may have difficulty here in T.V. interviews.

(d) We should recognize that the number of abstentions may be more than a mere handful. The combination of known antagonists (Heath, Gilmore, Critchley) and etc.

4:

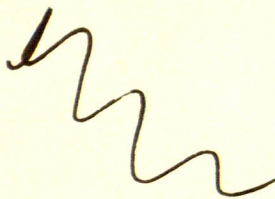
~~adds~~
unsound men of the right (Wiggin, Shepherd etc)
adds web into double figures. They may
carry others and we cannot make a
target for the number of votes you should get.
We must simply plan to maximize the number.

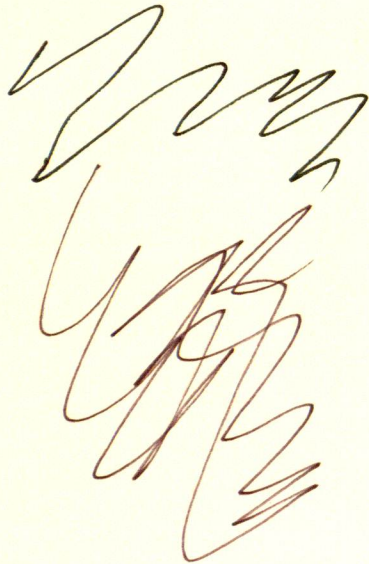
9. One small matter unrelated to the above.
Ciles Shaw (and maybe others) is upset by
the Times interview which ~~seems~~ seems to
suggest that you will "by popular acclaim"
fight 2 more elections. I have put
him right and am giving him the full
transcript which of course shows that this is
not what you said.

M.B

Personal
to
M.L.B.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of several overlapping, stylized loops and lines.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, featuring a prominent, wavy, horizontal stroke at the top.
Prime Minister

A handwritten signature in dark ink, characterized by a series of sharp, overlapping peaks and valleys, resembling a stylized 'W' or a series of connected 'V's.