



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

Prime Minister

Mon. 4th Dec 1989
8pm.

1) The total of those entitled to vote is 374. Your team believes that 300 of your colleagues (80% of the poll) will vote for you. This will be a terrific victory. It could be that rather more will vote for you, but it is impossible to be more precise.

2) This afternoon the 1922 Executive consulted the Lords and the party etc. as provided by the rules.

The Lords overwhelming support. John Boyd Carpenter reported that less than 5 had said they might abstain had they been in the Commons.

National Union Each of the 11 area chairmen ^{had} reported overwhelming support. There was a widespread desire that the election rules should be changed.

SCUA No support whatever for Sir A. Widespread hope for a decisive result. One or 2 Associations had said that there might have been a different view had a candidate other than Sir A stood against you.

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MEPs Christopher Prout produced the attached report. I am sure you will agree that in the circumstances this is a masterpiece of diplomacy.

- 3) Kenneth Baker wants to see you tomorrow after questions to agree a time for the press. George Tompser will be present as well. Caroline will brief you further about this.

M.B

CHRISTOPHER PROUT'S REPORT TO THE 1922 EXECUTIVE

Monday, 4th December

1. This note is written in accordance with the Leadership Election rule requiring me to summarise the views of the Conservative Members of the European Parliament regarding the candidates in the forthcoming Leadership Election. I have spoken to all but one of my colleagues.
2. My colleagues take it that the candidacy of Sir Anthony Meyer has the sole purpose of giving MPs the opportunity to express their opinion on the leadership of the Conservative Party.
3. An overwhelming majority of Conservative MEPs take the view that Mrs Thatcher has an outstanding record as Prime Minister. Her Leadership has transformed Britain's stature in the World, greatly improved our economic performance and redressed certain damaging imbalances in our society, such as the excessive power of the Trade Unions and the unjust burden of taxation.
4. My colleagues also applaud her important contribution to vitally needed reforms in the EC. However, a substantial majority of Conservative MEPs manifested considerable concern over some features of the Prime Minister's recently expressed attitudes to the Community and the adverse effect these may have on the promotion of British interests both at home and abroad. They are also worried at their impact upon the broad body of Conservative Party support within the country.

Personal
for MR-B

Prime Minister