

CLARKE



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

26 November 1990

Dear Kenneth,

Thank you so much for your kind and generous message. It has given me great strength and encouragement during these difficult days.

I most earnestly hope that the things I have tried to do for Britain will continue. That matters to me more than anything else.

With all good wishes,

Lawrence

Gaynor

The Right Honourable Kenneth Clarke, Q.C., M.P.

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FROM KENNETH CLARKE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

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The Prime Minister,

I believe that you knew that you had lost by the time that I saw you on Wednesday but that you were determined to go down fighting to the last. You earned the magnificent end to your premiership that you were looking for by the fantastic bravura speech that you gave in the confidence motion debate.

I spoke and acted as I did because



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I believe that a true friend in a crisis gives honest advice and acts openly. He will never know for sure what might have happened. I am convinced that you would have faced humiliating defeat in the recent ballot and we would have had Heseltine as P.M. I formed that firm opinion on my own feet for the House before I spoke to anyone else. I only discovered on Wednesday afternoon that Chris Patten shared my view. There was no 'cabal' against you. I only urged colleagues to give their true opinions to you.



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It has been a privilege to have
served in the Government of a truly great
Prime Minister. I will always be grateful to
you and loyal in defence of your
achievements. We will carry on the work.

Yours,
L. S. 1963