



17/11/87

Treasury Chambers, Parliament Street, SW1P 3AG

CHANCELLOR

You will not need further advice from colleagues on top of this very clear briefing on these relatively complicated matters, but I will add one practical word that derives from past experience ^{but} and } is not unconnected with my present extra-curricular responsibilities.

Having done a fair amount of travelling the country during local government elections in recent years, especially in a DES capacity, I was struck by the frequency with which

candidates blamed Central Government for timing unhelpful announcements to coincide with the cruxes of local government campaigns. I dare say this prejudice has much to do with the somewhat untutored enthusiasm for non-dual running in the Party in the country.

This prejudice however has a further edge. If there are adverse consequences locally from non-dual running, the local government candidate will not assume these consequences were thought through and discounted (because he or she has not been warned about them) but rather that they are due to the insensitive incompetence which is attributed to Central Government during campaigns. The infantry have always taken this broad view of the General Staff.