



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

7 September 1990

Jean Russell,

I am writing to say how pleased I am that you are going to become Chairman of the Conservative Party in Scotland. As you know, I felt that the time had come, as we approach a General Election, to have a Chairman who can devote all of his time to Party activities.

Michael Forsyth has done a great job during his time as Chairman, and the foundations which he has laid are firm. Now that we have you at Conservative Central Office in Edinburgh and Malcolm as Secretary of State with Michael promoted to Minister of State alongside Ian Lang in the Scottish Office, I am sure that we have the right team as we approach the exciting challenge of the months ahead.

I will never forget that we are the Conservative and Unionist Party and we owe it to our many supporters in Scotland to ensure that what we stand for is properly presented. With you as Chairman, I have no doubt that this will happen.

Finally, I would like to thank you for all your hard work as a successful Minister. I would also be grateful if you could pass on my personal thanks to the Staff at Conservative Central Office for all their splendid efforts too.

Yours ever

M. Thatcher

The Lord Sanderson of Bowden



BECKETTSFIELD
BOWDEN
MELROSE TD6 0ST
Telephone: 083522736

House of Lords

1 October 1990

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Dear Prime Minister,

Thank you very much for your kind letter. The challenge which you have set for me is the most difficult assignment you have laid at my door so far and I shall do my best. May I say that it is a role I would not wish to have beyond the next Election but I trust I will succeed in handing over a political machine that is in good order.

I do not wish to comment at this stage on my intentions - suffice to say that Michael and I have had good discussions, but I would be deluding you if I did not tell you that the Chester Street operation has major problems. I will keep Peter informed of my immediate plans and I hope to be able to give you a personal report 'ere long which is meaningful. At that stage I will bring you up to date with my thoughts on Income and Expenditure. The most pressing point is to get a date fixed for a fund raising dinner in Glasgow for April 1991 which I understand Michael had got your agreement. This is vital and an early response is necessary to get plans underway.

Finally, can I say how much I enjoyed my time at the Scottish Office and was sad to leave it. However, as you know, I am only too happy to help you in any way I can.

Yours Ever,

Russell

Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher FRS MP

SCUA

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Constituency Chairmen
Members, Area Councils
Candidates List
Regional & District Councillors
Members, Business Groups

13th September 1990

Whitto
Why can't the PM pay
a surprise visit? Would
do a lot to stabilise
situation

Dear Colleague

EXTRAORDINARY MEETING OF THE PARTY

Following the appointment of Lord Sanderson as the Chairman of the Party, Malcolm Rifkind, Russell Sanderson and I have agreed that it would be appropriate to convene a special meeting of the Party as soon as possible.

This meeting will take place in the George Watson's School, Colinton Road, Edinburgh on Saturday 29th September at 11 a.m. Coffee will be served from 10.15 a.m. onwards.

Lord Sanderson will outline the organisational priorities for the Party and the role of Central Office in achieving them. The Secretary of State will speak on the current political situation and the political objectives of our campaigning up to the General Election. Russell Sanderson is most keen to hear the views of the Party and there will be time for questions before the meeting ends at lunchtime.

A large and enthusiastic attendance of Ministers, Members of Parliament, Councillors, Candidates, Constituency office-bearers and Party activists will demonstrate more clearly than anything else - particularly to the media, our opponents and the outside world - that we are totally united, and all working together to improve our electoral position.

I do appreciate that notice of this meeting is short, but the purpose of it is of critical importance to our Party. Can I ask you please not only to make a very special effort to attend, but also to encourage all other activists you know to come along.

I look forward to welcoming you on 29th September. Details of directions to the School are set out overleaf. Soup and sandwiches will be available at lunchtime.

Kindest regards

Yours ever

Michael Hirst

Michael Hirst
President

PS.
Hope
you
had a
good
honeymoon.

24/9/90