

E. R.

PRIME MINISTER

Mr. Kinnock has responded to your letter declining to open a debate on ERM. He has changed his ground. His first letter argued that you should do this on grounds of propriety as you had spoken on the subject outside Parliament. He is now arguing that you should do so purely according to the importance of the subject.

I interpret the letter as a letting off of steam rather than as a serious appeal in the expectation that you might change your mind. This is confirmed by his final reference to arrangements for the debate. I think the correspondence can be left to rest at this point.

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ANDREW TURNBULL

10 October 1990

*colours*



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

The Office of the  
Leader of The Opposition

October 10th 1990

*Dear Prime Minister,*

Thank you for your letter of October 10th. I am glad that you have responded to my request by agreeing that the House should debate your Government's decision to put Sterling into the Exchange Rate Mechanism.

I have to tell you, however, that many will share my view that it is extraordinary that you do not see fit to lead in a debate on a matter that has such great significance for the country.

It is also strange that you intend to avoid the obligation to set out your reasons - as Prime Minister - for the Government's decision and for its timing and to give your view of the implications for the United Kingdom and its people. On an issue of this magnitude the reason that you give - that it is more "appropriate" for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to lead - is, frankly, unconvincing.

I look forward to hearing further arrangements for the debate.

*Yours sincerely,  
Neil Kinnock*

Neil Kinnock

Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
10 Downing Street



October 10th 1954

*Dear Mr. [Name]*

I have to tell you, however, that my view will be that you have responded to my request by pointing out that the House should debate your Government's decision to put sterling into the Exchange Rate Mechanism.

I have to tell you, however, that my view will be that you have responded to my request by pointing out that the House should debate your Government's decision to put sterling into the Exchange Rate Mechanism.

It is the strange that you failed to avoid the obligation to set out your reasons - an earlier Minister - for the Government's decision and for the timing and to give your view of the implications for the United Kingdom and its people. The answer of your Ministers the reason that you give - that it is a "pre-emptive" for the Chancellor of the Exchequer to lead - is, frankly, unconvincing.

I look forward to hearing further arrangements for the debate.

*Yours sincerely  
Neil Kinnock*

Neil Kinnock

Mr. [Name]  
[Address]  
[City]