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27th October, 1983

Mr. R. Butler,
Principal Private Secretary,
10 Downing Street,
London S.W.1

Dear *Rolim*

Thank you very much for sending me a copy of the Griffiths Report. I have had a preliminary read through it and find several aspects of it very disturbing. Once again an extra layer of administration is proposed. Although separation of health care from Social Security is implied, the D.H.S.S. will remain; thus the bulk of money intended for health care will continue to be diverted into irrelevant administration. The new health board will still be answerable to higher authority, which will include of all the ludicrous things the Principal Medical Officer. The Report seems to be largely based on what the D.H.S.S. and previous reports have said rather than a real analysis of the problem. Where they suggest that Florence Nightingale pacing the wards with her lamp would find it difficult to find someone responsible and in charge, I venture to suggest she will find it difficult to find a nurse, but to find numbers of people she would have to carry her lamp into the administrative blocks of the Regions and Districts etc.; all of which have nothing to do with patient care.

Implementation of this Report in this form without further thought will deliver the coup de grace to the Health Service and in my view would hasten the demise of the Government. I do hope the great opportunity for sensible reform is seized whilst everyone is in the mood for change and reform.

Do you think it would be helpful when I have read the Report through carefully, annotated it and made notes, that it would be worthwhile to send a critique of it to Mrs. Thatcher?

All good wishes.

Yours sincerely,



Donald B. Longmore, FRCSEd
Consultant Clinical Physiologist

Donald LONGMORE



16/12 ~~AN 2/12 VC~~
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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

27 October 1983

Thank you for your letter of 27 October. I am sorry that your initial reaction to the Griffiths Report is unfavourable.

I think that the Prime Minister would find it very helpful if you had time to let her have your views on it. If, alternatively or additionally, you would like me to arrange for you to have a talk with those concerned in the DHSS I will gladly do so - but it may be that you have the necessary contacts there already.

FLB

Donald Longmore, Esq., FRCSEd