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12th July 1983

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The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher MP Prime Minister's Office 10 Downing Street London SW1

Near Rin. Minister:

As the Senior Bencher at Gray's Inn I would naturally have wished to be present when you both dine there next Monday and I am very disappointed I cannot be.

Alas, however, I have another and unavoidable commitment. On Monday after giving lunch to the Chancellor of the Exchequer (following one at my home on Sunday for the new Chinese Ambassador at which Ian Gow, Timothy Rathbone and Tufton Chelwood will be the other guests!) I am entertaining the Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia and the High Commissioner to dinner preparatory to giving the former an Honorary Degree at Sussex University.

Your own meeting with Dr Mahathir was most successful and our relations with Malaysia, where I have several interests, are very much better. But I am doing what little I can in my small way to improve the University link.

Please accept my excuses and apologies.

Having howners