

PRIME MINISTER

CONSERVATION LUNCH: 25 NOVEMBER

Your lunch on Monday is with six leading figures from the conservation world:

Sir Derek Barber, Chairman, Countryside Commission
Mr William Wilkinson, Chairman, Nature Conservancy Council
The Viscount Blakenham, Chairman of Council, RSPB,
Mr. Ian Branton, Director and Secretary, British Trust for Conservation Volunteers
Mr. Tom Burke, Director, Green Alliance
Sir Arthur Norman, Centre for Economic and Environmental Development

The Environment Secretary, William Waldegrave and Angela Rumbold will also be present. The seating plan is at Flag A together with short notes about each of the outsiders coming.

My letter of invitation indicates the main topics you will probably wish to have discussed at the lunch:

(i) key environmental issues and the Government's response;

(ii) land use (and particularly the impact of CAP reform, which Sir Derek Barber has particularly said he would like to discuss);

(iii) the role of the voluntary sector;

(iv) the urban environment.

The attached briefing consists of:

Flag B, Hartley Booth's note;

Flag C, briefing from the DOE;

Flag D, a note from Nick Owen on the CAP/land use issues;

Flag E, a letter from the Secretary of State for Agriculture reminding you of a paper he submitted recently which I am sure you will remember. He notes that this has not been seen by DOE Ministers.

You may wish towards the end of the lunch to have a word about responding to press enquiries about it. You could indicate ~~with~~ ^{general} the line you will be taking: that you were very glad you were able to meet with a number of key figures in the conservation field to discuss their concerns, and to listen to their views about how Government policy is contributing to conservation, and where improvements might be looked for; that the Government is fully committed to the cause of conserving our heritage and environment and taking specific steps to protect it where necessary; and that it believes there need be no conflict between achieving this and at the same time encouraging economic development.

MEA

MARK ADDISON

22 November 1985

Sg 22/11
✓ Sue Woodchild.

PM is content.

MEA 22/11

PRIME MINISTER

THE CONSERVATION LUNCH ON MONDAY

I attach a draft seating plan for the lunch. Points to note are:-

1. The Department of the Environment tell me that Sir Derek Barber, Viscount Blakenham, and Ian Branton are the key outsiders, so I have put them as close to you as possible.

2. Tom Burke has now been adopted as SDP candidate for Surbiton. But William Waldegrave vouches for his value at a lunch like this. I suggest putting him on your side of the table, but at the end.

3. The draft plan suggests that the Secretary of State and William Waldegrave should be reasonably near you, but on the other side of the table. You may, however, prefer that they should go to the ends, allowing the "outsiders" to come nearer the middle. I know William Waldegrave would be happy to move down. But on balance I think it would be better to leave the plan as it is.

Content with the draft plan?

Yes me

MEA

MEA

21 November, 1985.

A

Mr. Hartley Booth

Mrs. Angela Rumbold

Mr. William Wilkinson
Chairman,
Nature Conservancy Council.

Mr. Ian Branton
Director and Secretary,
British Trust for
Conservation Volunteers

The Rt. Hon. Kenneth Baker

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Sir Derek Barber
Chairman,
Countryside Commission

Viscount Blakenham
Chairman of Council,
RSPB

The Hon. William Waldegrave

Mr. Tom Burke
Director,
Green Alliance

Sir Arthur Norman
Chairman,
Centre for Economic and
Environmental Development

Mr. Mark Addison