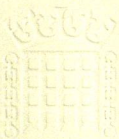


Most grateful for the superb hospitality and generosity of our host.

You will expect me to say something about - and I use the current jargon - "race relations and immigration". But let me put it in the context of my, of Conservative, beliefs.

Our approach is a blend of ^{practical} common sense ~~pragmatism,~~ with a strong, underlying philosophy.

That philosophy stems from a passionate belief in the importance of men and women as individuals, and their freedom, within an ordered society, to fulfil their own lives and destinies. Responsibility for oneself, and towards others, is not something which can, or should, be imposed by the diktat of Government. Rather it is something which should be allowed to develop and express itself freely.



Particularly, we recognise that the family is the natural unit for this development.

We believe strongly in equality: that all men are equal before the law - yes - but particularly are equal in human dignity: but we recognise - and here you have the first whiff of pragmatism, of common sense rather than ideology, that people are unequal in aspirations, unequal in talents.

We reject absolutely the theory of egalitarianism, which is the theory of the lowest common denominator, of moving the convoy at the speed of the slowest ship.

We believe in equality of opportunity for those aspirations, those talents, to develop to the full.

Opportunity must be open to all in our society; the equality we preach must be available to everyone in our community - regardless of race or religion.

600

64

That is the philosophy

But let me turn to the hard realities of the racial problems we face in Great Britain.

I reiterate commitments although I would think it hardly necessary.

I reiterate that our objective is the maintenance and improvement of racial harmony.

But I cannot, should not, hide the fact that many people are deeply anxious about the consequences of continuing immigration at the present rate.

Numbers are important - but perhaps it is the psychological effect of the concept of numbers which one should take greater note of.

It would be foolish to deny this - very unwise to ignore it.

Of course, some of the worries stem from an underlying prejudice.

Some worries are held by those who genuinely share my views about the equality of man, but who are worried about the effects on our so-called British way of life of an influx of a different culture.

Some who are the most realistic see very clearly that we have a genuine human problem, which is one of tension between the races.

We cannot afford to risk an increase in that tension. We certainly could not, in the event of heightened tension, carry through the preferential expenditure to help the problems of city centres - the problems of education, health care and housing - which is already so necessary : and so ignored by the Labour Councils which control those city centres.

Our attitude to race relations comes from our philosophy.

Our policy on immigration stems from our
common sense and our pragmatism.

Rej c. 60.

23 June 1977

Thank you for your letter of June 21st. I am so glad that you thought it was a success.

I am afraid your three requests have been turned down as no doubt you expected! She is very sorry but as you know the pressures are just too great for her to accept all the invitations she would like.

Regarding your last paragraph, Mrs Thatcher was born on the 13th October, 1925 in Grantham but she is not quite sure at what time. She said 'breakfast time' to me which means 9.00 a.m. Hope this is some help.

Miss Caroline Stephens
Private Office
Leader of the Opposition

Mervyn Kohler Esq

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9000 Telegrams Constitute London SW1

Chairman of the Party: THE RT HON THE LORD THORNEYCROFT

Deputy Chairmen: WILLIAM CLARK MP
ANGUS MAUDE TD MP

Vice Chairmen: REGINALD EYRE MP
GEOFFREY FINSBERG MBE JP MP
MARCUS FOX MBE MP
JOHN MOORE MP
THE BARONESS YOUNG



21 June 1977

Dear Caroline,

Please thank Mrs Thatcher very much for coming to the Anglo Asian Society reception last week. I have had numerous phone calls from the people present saying how much they had enjoyed it, and meeting her; it was a useful occasion too from the point of view of bringing in the Asian businessmen and getting their support.

I have had three requests arising from the reception. Mr Shamji, the ship-owner, would like to hold a dinner party one night and invite some 30 couples. He estimates it would directly raise over £1,000 for the Society, and, naturally, he would like to invite Mr and Mrs Thatcher. He has a large house in Hertfordshire, and is thinking of a date in August or September. I appreciate the demands on Mrs Thatcher for this kind of function, but we are meeting, through Mr Shamji, the top league of the Asian business community.

Second, Ajit Bhart spoke to Mrs Thatcher about visiting Slough as the guest of the AACCS branch possibly making more of the time and doing things with the Conservative Association too. I gather that Mrs Thatcher broadly accepted his proposition - is this a real possibility? Should we be marking down dates?

Lastly, does Mrs Thatcher give details of the date, time, and place of her birth for the benefit of astrology freaks? I have an Indian doctor who goes in for this sort of thing - perhaps for the sake of the NHS one should not exaggerate his interest in astrology.

Sorry to write such a long letter.

Yours sincerely,



Mervyn Kohler

Miss Caroline Stevens,
Leader of the Opposition's Private Office,
House of Commons.

Breakfast
near 9.00am

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9000 Telegrams Constitute London SW1

Chairman of the Party: THE RT HON THE LORD THORNEYCROFT

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GEOFFREY FINSBERG MBE JP MP
MARCUS FOX MBE MP
JOHN MOORE MP
THE BARONESS YOUNG

29 September 1977

Dear Caroline,

I write to remind you of some correspondence that we had some time ago concerning a possible fund-raising dinner for the Anglo Asian Conservative Society at which Mrs Thatcher would possibly be present. At the time, you sent me a letter saying that Mrs Thatcher would be interested in attending such a function if it was considered as a national Society event.

After consultations, the Society would like to make the dinner a national event, to be held in a wealthy Asian's home in Hertfordshire. Since I first mentioned the subject to you, their expectations of raising money from such a dinner has risen by several thousand pounds.

If it would be possible for you to earmark an evening, either during the week or weekend sometime in January or February next year, I should be most grateful. Do please contact me if you have any problems or queries on the matter.

Yours sincerely,

Mervyn

Mervyn Kohler

Miss Caroline Stevens,
Leader of the Opposition's Private Office,
House of Commons.

Rey CCO
(ASIAN)
01 MAREH

3 October 1977

Many thanks for your further letter of September 29th in which you reminded me of some correspondence we had two or three months ago. I take this to mean your letter of June 21st and my reply of June 23rd. In this case, I am afraid I did not in any way mean to commit Mrs Thatcher to accepting a possible fund raising dinner for the Anglo Asian Conservative Society. As a matter of fact I know that in the first instance Mrs Thatcher would prefer Mr Whitelaw to be invited as Shadow Spokesman for Home Affairs.

January and February are already very busy months for Mrs Thatcher and she has specifically requested that I accept no more major speaking engagements on her behalf. I do not know what Mr Whitelaw's diary looks like for the same period but I think that in view of his position, it would be politic to invite him or at least seek his advice as to whom should be asked.

I am so sorry to have to bring you this disappointing reply, not least because I know how much Mrs Thatcher has enjoyed attending previous functions organised by the Anglo Asian Conservative Society and because of the gratitude she feels to those actively involved in ensuring its future success.

[Handwritten signature]

2nd March

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9000 Telegrams Constitute London SW1

Chairman of the Party: THE RT HON THE LORD THORNEYCROFT

Deputy Chairmen: WILLIAM CLARK MP
ANGUS MAUDE TD MP

Vice Chairmen: REGINALD EYRE MP
GEOFFREY FINSBERG MBE JP MP
MARCUS FOX MBE MP
JOHN MOORE MP
THE BARONESS YOUNG

8 November 1977

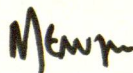
Dear Caroline,

This is just to confirm my telephone conversation with you earlier this afternoon - regarding a date for Mrs Thatcher to attend a dinner given by the Anglo Asian Conservative Society.

Out of the two dates you offered, the Society would like to choose Thursday, 2 March 1978. I will, of course, pass details of the actual function through to you as soon as possible.

I enclose a copy of a letter of invitation to a social evening being organised by the Barnet Branch of the Society - for information.

Yours sincerely,



Mervyn Kohler

Miss Caroline Stevens,
Leader of the Opposition's Private Office,
House of Commons.

Mr. Abdul Shamji
requests the pleasure of your company to meet
The Right Honourable Margaret Thatcher
at a Dinner
on Thursday, 2nd March, 1978 at 7.30pm
at 'Edmundsbury', Beverley Lane
Coombe Hill, Kingston

RSVP: N. Saroop
01.491 3636

Black Tie

CS

United Kingdom Anglo Asian Conservative Society

32 Smith Square Westminster London SW1P 3HH Telephone 01-222 9000 Telegrams Constitute London SW1

President: THE RT. HON MARGARET THATCHER MP
Chairman: N. S. SAROOP

Fund Raising Committee: B. DHILLON
M. GILBEY
A. HAMEED
J. PEYTON-JONES
A. QURESHI
A. SHAMJI
J. WAUCHOPE

9th February, 1978.

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
House of Commons,
Westminster,
S.W.1.

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

DINNER - 2nd MARCH 1978

I am happy to enclose the invitation for the above evening, and have been advised to co-ordinate details with John Stanley. I will be in touch with him shortly and will also send you a brief note for that evening, which I hope will be helpful.

We all greatly look forward to seeing you there.

Yours sincerely,

(N.S. Saroop)

10 February 1978

In the absence of Mrs Thatcher who is at present on tour in the Yorkshire area I am writing to acknowledge and thank you for your letter of February 9th and for enclosing details of the dinner on Thursday 2nd March.

Mrs Thatcher will be accompanied by her Detective and Driver and if it was possible for them to get something to eat I would be grateful.

With best wishes.

John Stanley MP
Parliamentary Private Secretary

N.S. Saroop Esq

P.S. My colleague Adam Butler MP will now be accompanying Mrs Thatcher on March 2nd and I should be grateful therefore if you would co-ordinate the details with him.

ACB

||
||

To: Adam

Box.

Margaret

The Anglo-Asian Conservative
Society Dinner, March 2nd

I have spoken to Andrew Lowe.

This is basically a fund-raising
dinner to put the Anglo-Asian
Conservative Society on a sound
financial footing.

Andrew's view is that this is
not an occasion for a speech on
immigration/race relations or for
publicity, and that you should
talk to this group of affluent

Asian businessmen about the
attractions of the Tory Party to all
those who value a free enterprise
Britain.

Andrew
Lowe

Please could you ring Mr. Saroop at his office tomorrow after 11.15 - 709 0744. Or at home this evening from 6 p.m. onwards - 937 7932.

He wants to discuss Mrs. Thatcher 's engagement in which he is involved on March 2nd. He suggested ,you had lunch with him this Wednesday which is impossible, or Monday 27th about which I hedged. He is going to be in the House sometime this evening and may waylay you.

20/2



MRS THATCHER

Maryam.

Asian Dinner - 2nd March

Programme of Events

Leave HoC 7.20; arrive Kingston between 7.50 and 8.00 p.m. to be greeted by Mr Shamji and Mr & Mrs Saroop. Circulate with guests for approximately 20 minutes. Dinner. Loyal Toast will be made. Speeches: A few formal words by Mr Jethwani or Mr Shamji followed by some remarks by Mr Narinder Saroop. Your speech to last approximately 15 minutes followed by questions. What time is left may be spent moving round the tables possibly with photographs but you are expected to leave at 10.00 or shortly afterwards. NB: our host has laid in some champagne especially to celebrate the Ilford result.

Seating plan:

You will be sitting along one side of a small table between Mr Shamji and Mr Jethwani with the others being Lady Home, Lady Glendevon, Mr Shoaib, or Mr Nirmal and Mr Saroop.

Notes on those present:

Mr A Shamji - in his early 40's, a third generation Ugandan Asian, originally a Gujerti. Arrived G.B. in 1972 vitually penniless. Now a highly successful and prosperous businessman owning a number of cargo vessels. Controls Universal Leatherin Blackburn which he bought from ICI and which is thought to be the largest manufacturer of leather handbags and other goods.

.../



- 2 -

Also believed to control GOMBA GROUP which is a very large importer of wine. His house dates from 1520 and was moved brick by brick from Bury St Edmunds by an earlier owner.

Mr Shoaib: A Pakistani and a Banker and is the Pakistani representative of the World Bank. His father was a distinguished Pakistani diplomat.

Adam

Adam

2 March

(24)

GUEST LIST

Section 1

~~Mr. and Mrs. Thatcher~~
Lord and Lady Home
Mr. and Mrs. Peyton Jones
Lord and Lady Glendevon
Mr. and Mrs. Wauchope
Alderman and Mrs. Craig-cooper
Mr. and Mrs. Charles Muller
Sir and Lady Michael Havers
Adam Butler
Section 2

Mr. and Mrs. Jaswant Singh
Mr. and Mrs. Manzur Ilahi Mogul
Mr. and Mrs. Madat Ahmed

Mr. and Mrs. A. Shamji - HOST
Mr. and Mrs. Ajmal Hameed
Mr. and Mrs. N. Saroop + Vaneta
Mr. and Mrs. A. Ishani
Mr. and Mrs. K Shoaib
Maharani of Morvi
B. Virani
Mr. C. M. Masters
Mr. and Mrs. M. A. Shaikh
Mr. A. Anis
Mr. and Mrs. Lakhani

Andrew Anis
Harvey Kohler

Section 3

Mr. and Mrs. K. Jethwani
Mr. and Mrs. Sethia Nirmal
Mr. and Mrs. Choriaria Girdarji
Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Thoisethis
Mr. and Mrs. Sengupta
Dr. and Mrs. Sat
Mr. and Mrs. Malhotra
Mr. Prabhakar Rana
MR. & MRS. JIVRAJ

2 Drivers and 1 Security person to be looked after by Gardener

1 Photographer - Mr. Arora - To phone



2 March 1978

Ref: Dinner Tonight

MR. JETHWANI

Head of large international family business in States and other parts of the world. Head Office in London, where he lives permanently.

Came her from India 15 years ago.

Both he and his wife are in their 40s.

I understand he is rather shy and retiring.

He will be sitting on your right.

Narinder Saroop

ACB

A.

For information only
- file back please.

CS

Broken
Rowe.

Asian
reception
/ hour.

Spring -
reception

Dinner -

Richard.

50 people -

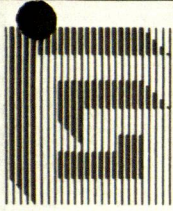
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7:30.

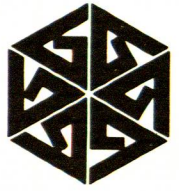
Amenable to press?
Talk to Rowe.

Gomba UK Group Ltd

CS



97 Park Lane, London W1Y 4LA
Telephone: 01-491 3636



Cables: Gomba Group London W1 Telex: 25629 Gomba G

Your Ref:

Our Ref:

3rd March, 1978.

The Right Honourable Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.,
The House of Commons,
Westminster,
London,
S.W.1.

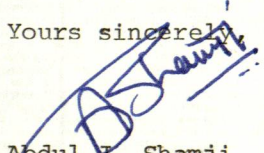
ans

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

We were all thrilled to hear the result of the Ilford By-Election last night which is indeed a promising omen, and we send you our warmest congratulations.

We should like to take this opportunity to thank you and to tell you how honoured and flattered I and my family were that you accepted our invitation to dine with us last night.

Yours sincerely,


Abdul J. Shamji

Gomba Group of Companies

Directors: A. J. Shamji (Ugandan), Z. Shamji, (Kenyan), F. Shamji
Registered in England No. 1104575 Registered office as above

Tel. 01-883 5940

CS

"Villa Russo,"

16^A The Bishops Avenue,
London, N.2.

KNJ/APS

6th March, 1978

Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London S.W.1

Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

It was indeed a privilege and pleasure to meet you at the informal dinner at Mr. A. Shamji's residence on 2nd March.

I was most impressed with your speech clarifying the immigration issue which I had suspected for a long time, was being misrepresented and exaggerated by the Press.

I do look forward to the pleasure of meeting you in the near future when I return from my travels.

May I take this opportunity of conveying my congratulations on your Ilford victory.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

Khushal N. Jethwani

Nirmal Sethia

CS
69 THE RIDGEWAY,
LONDON, NW11 8PH

Rt. Hon. Margret Thatcher MP.
House of Commons,
Westminster,
London S.W.1.

6th March 1978.

My Dear Mrs. Thatcher,

It was indeed an honour and a great pleasure to have met you at Mr. Abdul Shamji's dinner on 2nd March.

I must say, I was very impressed by your speech, in particular to your remarks and views on immigration.

Mr. Gohil rightly said, "we have been Conservatives for the last 2000 years!" I have been a Conservative always and more so now after hearing you.

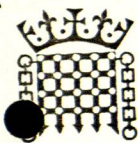
I hope we will have another opportunity of meeting you in the near future.

Heartiest congratulations on your victory in Ilford.

Yours very sincerely,

N.K. Sethia.

THE RT. HON. MRS. MARGARET THATCHER, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

3 March 1978

Dear Mr. and Mrs. Shanji,

May I thank you
most warmly for your kind
and generous hospitality last
evening. I enjoyed it very much;
it was so nice to be able to talk to
you many guests in such an
informal and happy atmosphere.
I wish I could have stayed
longer but it isn't every day that we

have an Ilford bye-election

Would so - please thank you
sincerely for all the work they put in
and for the delightful and gracious
way in which they looked after us all.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

THCR

5-1-2-174



Media files:
Anglo-Asian,
2/3/78

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THCR

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