



FILE

T. U. C. and  
National  
Pensioners  
Convention

DS9

off record.  
cc DHSS (before sig.)

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

6 June 1979

Lionel Murray

Thank you for writing to me on 30 May about the National Pensioners' Convention which is to be held on 14 June. I hope that this will prove to be a worthwhile occasion.

You asked whether I would meet a group of representatives from the pensioners' organisations concerned, in order to discuss the case for pensioners adopted at the Convention. That is already an extremely busy week, with the Budget debate in progress. In addition, President Moi of Kenya is paying a State Visit to London, with which I shall be closely involved on that day. In the circumstances, I have asked Patrick Jenkin to meet the pensioners on my behalf, and he will be very ready to do so. Perhaps you could be in touch with him to settle the timing.

I am sorry that I cannot take part personally on this occasion, but I look forward to receiving a report from Patrick Jenkin about his discussions.

Yours sincerely  
Margaret Thatcher

The Right Honourable Lionel Murray, O.B.E.

VUB



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for writing to me on 30 May about the National Pensioners' Convention which is to be held on 14 June. I hope that this will prove to be a worthwhile occasion.

You asked whether I would meet a group of representatives from the pensioners' organisations concerned, in order to discuss the case for pensioners adopted at the Convention. ~~As I am sure you will realise,~~ <sup>As I am sure</sup> ~~that~~ <sup>is already</sup> an extremely busy week, with the Budget debate in progress. In addition, President Moi of Kenya is paying a State visit to London, with which I shall be closely involved on that day. In the circumstances, ~~I am afraid that I will be unable to meet the representatives personally.~~ <sup>make arrangements</sup> I have asked Patrick Jenkin to ~~do so~~ on my behalf, and he will be very ready to do so. Perhaps you could be in touch with him to settle the timing.

I am sorry that I cannot take part personally on this occasion, but I look forward to receiving a report from Patrick Jenkin about his discussions.

The Right Honourable Lionel Murray, O.B.E.

R 18/6

# Trades Union Congress

CONGRESS HOUSE · GREAT RUSSELL STREET · LONDON WC1B 3LS

DATE AS POSTMARK

Dear Sir ( Madam ) :

National Pensioners' Convention

Subject.....

Your communication of June 6 .....has been

received and is being given attention.

Yours faithfully,

LIONEL MURRAY  
General Secretary



979

THE TUC  
WELCOMES THE  
INTERNATIONAL  
YEAR OF THE CHILD

# POST CARD

THE ADDRESS TO BE WRITTEN ON THIS SIDE



Rt Hon M Thatcher  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London  
SW1

GREAT BRITAIN



07

PBT 1407U

POSTAGE PAID





10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

6 June 1979

I spoke to you yesterday about Mr. Len Murray's request to the Prime Minister to meet a delegation from the National Pensioners' Convention on 14 June. I enclose a copy of Mr. Murray's letter to the Prime Minister about this.

The Prime Minister would be grateful if Mr. Jenkin would meet the representatives on her behalf. You told me yesterday that this would be possible, and the Prime Minister will therefore be writing to Mr. Murray today to tell him that Mr. Jenkin will meet the pensioners on her behalf.

M. A. PATTISON

S. H. F Hickey, Esq.,  
Department of Health and Social Security.

A



**10 DOWNING STREET**

PRIME MINISTER

Len Murray has written to ask you to receive a deputation on 14 June, following a National Pensioners' Convention to be hosted by the TUC.

This is a bad day, with Questions, the Budget Debate, and the Moi State banquet apart from more routine business. Even if it were not, we would recommend that you should devolve this request to Patrick Jenkin: once you agree to become personally involved with pressure groups representing one sector or interest, it becomes much more difficult to turn down any others.

Are you therefore content to ask Patrick Jenkin to take this on (he is agreeable) and to reply to Mr. Murray as in the attached draft?

*[Handwritten signatures]*

5 June 1979

1 June 1979

I am writing on the Prime Minister's behalf to thank you for your letter of 30 May about the National Pensioners' Convention. This is receiving attention and a reply will be sent to you as soon as possible.

CS

The Right Honourable Lionel Murray, O.B.E.

S

# TRADES UNION CONGRESS

CONGRESS HOUSE · GREAT RUSSELL STREET · LONDON WC1B 3LS

Telephone 01-636 4030

Telegrams TRADUNIC LONDON WC1

May 30 1979

Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
London S W 1

YOUR REFERENCE

OUR REFERENCE

LM/NDW/PJ/CD

DEPARTMENT

Social Insurance &  
Industrial Welfare

Dear Mrs Thatcher

## National Pensioners' Convention

A National Pensioners' Convention will be held on June 14, 1979, at the Central Hall, Westminster. This will bring together representatives of a number of independent organisations active in their varying ways in support of pensioners. The organisations involved include Age Concern, the British Pensioners and Trade Union Action Committee, Help the Aged, the National Federation of Old Age Pensions Associations and the Trades Union Congress which has agreed to act as host. I attach a copy of the draft declaration which has been agreed jointly by these bodies to be put forward for adoption by the Convention.

I have been asked to seek your agreement to meet a group of representatives, from the Organisations concerned, so that they can put to you the case for pensioners adopted at the Convention. The Convention itself will close at 4.30 pm and a meeting later that day would have much to commend it. I hope you will be able to agree to this proposal, since I am sure the Convention will be seen as a most important event in achieving a better standard of life for our retired people.

Yours sincerely

*Lionel Murray.*

General Secretary

National Pensioners Convention: Thursday, June 14, 1979  
Declaration of Intent

This convention declares that every pensioner has the right to choice, dignity, independence and security as an integral and valued member of society.

These rights require an adequate State retirement pension. There must be an immediate commitment to a pension level of not less than one half of average gross earnings for a married couple and not less than one third of average gross earnings for a single person, uprated at six monthly intervals.

In addition to an adequate income a pensioner should, as of right:

- \* live in accommodation which is appropriate to personal need and circumstance with a reasonable degree of choice including sheltered housing;
- \* be able to call on the full range of community and personal social services to give full support as need arises, including, for example, home helps, meals on wheels, chiropody, television and telephone;
- \* be able to use a National Scheme of substantial concessionary facilities on all public transport in all parts of the country;
- \* have ready access to comprehensive free health care on demand;
- \* be able to maintain a warm and well lit home with adequate heating allowances covering all fuels;
- \* have full access to a varied and extensive range of education and leisure facilities;
- \* be paid a regular tax free Christmas bonus of £20, adjusted in future in line with inflation;
- \* be eligible for an adequate retirement pension on ceasing work at any time of his or her choice after the age of 60 years, without being subject to an earnings rule;
- \* be entitled to an adequate death grant irrespective of age.