

Scotland

File

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Alison
Mr. Turnbull
Mr. Redwood

You ought to be aware that at the Chairman's weekly meeting at Central Office (this week chaired by Tom Arnold) Jimmy Goold spoke with great force about the political implications for the Conservatives in Scotland because of the rates revaluation and this view was totally back by Russell Sanderson. His main points were:-

1. In the latest NOP the Conservatives have now dropped 7 points and are now behind the Alliance. The NOP published in the Glasgow Herald on 9th March showed the parties as follows:-

	<u>Now</u>	<u>Feb</u>	<u>June '83 General Election</u>
Conservative	19%	26%	28%
Labour	47%	44%	35%
Alliance	20%	16%	25%
SNP	14%	14%	12%

2. He would do all he could to sell the recent announcement by George Younger but did not feel it would cut much ice in Scotland.
3. He warned that all of this would create immense difficulties for the conference in Perth.

I think there is a good case once Central Council is out of the way, for you to have a meeting with George Younger to discuss the Scottish Conference in general and your own speech in particular.

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE
13.3.85