

Confidential

6th November, 1979

Thank you very much for your letter of 1st November, and for your most interesting report on the last Steering Committee Meeting of "traditional Bilderberg".

I am most grateful to you for having kept me informed.

Thank you, too, for letting me know the dates of next year's Conference at Aachen, when you are to discuss the evolution of the North American/European relationship during the last quarter of a century.

My diary for next year is already heavily over-crowded, and I am sorry to say that it is unlikely that I will be able to be with you on that occasion.

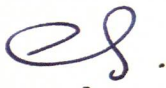
I am looking forward to our talk at the House at 4.30 p.m. on Tuesday 20th November.

Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.  
House of Commons,  
Westminster, London SW1



IAN GOW

I know you have got the top copy of Sir Frederic Bennett's letter, but to help you in your reply to him please under no circumstances commit the Prime Minister to anything. Sir Frederic has been pestering her for five years to go to the Bilderberg Conference and it is unlikely that she will do so this time. Apart from anything else, she has a long-standing engagement to visit Emmanuel Kaye's factory at Lansing Bagnall on Friday, 18 April. However, he does request an appointment with the Prime Minister and I will be ringing him next week to fix this up.



2 November 1979



From: Sir Frederic Bennett, M.P.



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

*Confidential*

1st November, 1979

R2

*My dear Margaret*

Last Saturday we held the last Steering Committee Meeting of "traditional Bilderberg" under Alec's Chairmanship to prepare what, in its turn, will be the last traditional Bilderberg meeting in Germany next year - the 25th Anniversary of its instigation.

Thereafter a new Bilderberg Mark II as it is called with a wholly different Steering Committee, and I think a rather different concept too, will continue; but my connection with it, except as a hypothetical future possible participant, from time to time, will cease, together with all the established members of the Steering Committee, other than a few recently-joined young new adherents. Chancellor Schmidt who I do not need to tell you is one of your most ardent fans anywhere outside Britain is to play a leading role in the final meeting next year. So we are all hoping to have a really star-studded cast, including notably, as everyone present stressed last Saturday, yourself. Other heads of government are expected to be coming too plus other senior Ministers as well as diplomats, etc., and I do hope that since, for quite understandable reasons you have had to miss the last two functions you will make it next time!

The total number is to be severely restricted and I understand your only "opposite number" from the British Labour Party will be Denis Healey, and then not even in his own right, to-day but more as a tribute to the influential role he has played in Bilderberg in the past - more is the pity. We do not want him to have a free run!

Appropriate details are on the attached slip of paper. The main subject matter, as you will see, instead of, as has usually been the case, covering one economic and one political topic, will be - since it is a 25th Anniversary - an overall appraisal, divided into three parts, political, economic and strategic of the evolving European/American relationship ever since Bilderberg's inception in 1955. You



do, I know, not take kindly to being pressurised from any source. Hence I will content myself by praying and hoping that despite your many pre-occupations and commitments, you will be present at this next one at least for some, if not for the whole of its duration.

It is to all your supporters a source of enormous satisfaction that having in six months obtained at home such enormous respect for decisive leadership you should also have achieved the same pre-eminence in the opinion of all objective political figures and commentators across the board on the European mainland, where so much of my work lies nowadays. In this last context, I do want to re-iterate my gratitude to you for entrusting me with the leadership of the British delegation to the Council of Europe and the Western European Union Assemblies. I really am enjoying the work immensely and do believe, without immodesty, that our team has recently made great steps forward in establishing what I have to call "a conservative front", within the whole of Free Europe, increasingly influenced, if not dominated by British Conservatives. It was this same Group\* that under a Norwegian Chairman, with myself as Vice-Chairman, accepted enthusiastically my suggestion to send you a telegram of good wishes to Blackpool, which I hope you duly received. Additionally we have been able to establish permanent liaison committee arrangements with the Christian Democrats on the one hand and the Mixed Democrats, mainly French Gaullists on the other.

Even the Continental Liberals, who are rather different characters from our native variety, are showing interest in working together with us.

Needless to add I am keeping Anthony Royle in touch with these developments as they are taking place. Since you were not able to see me after my appointment as Leader I would love a brief chat with you, some time soon, if you could possibly spare ten minutes out of your hectic schedule; preferably anyhow before the WEU Plenary Session takes place in Paris in December, when a number of issues have to be decided of real concern to the British Conservative government.

Finally you may be interested to know that among new plans we are hoping to hold the first-ever "right-of-centre" Seminar near Madrid,

*\* drawn from at least a dozen countries!*



at the conclusion of one of the Council of Europe Mini-Sessions there, next June, when for the first time I believe, Conservatives, "Independents", Christian Democrats and Mixed Democrats from up to 20 free European countries: but with NO Socialists whatsoever, will meet to discuss a theme of common interest which presents reasonable prospects of all-round agreement between the many different parties concerned. If successful we shall hold another one in the U.K. the following year or at ~~late~~ latest in 1981.

Warm personal regards,  
Yours ever,  
Freddie

The Rt. Hon. Mrs. M. Thatcher, M.P.,  
Prime Minister,  
No. 10 Downing Street,  
LONDON S.W.1



BILDERBERG CONFERENCE - 1980.

April 18th - April 20th, 1980

Hotel Quellenhof, AACHEN, Federal Republic of Germany,

"  
The evolution of the North American/European relationship during  
the last quarter of a century,"

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'JMB' with a long horizontal flourish underneath.