

PRIME MINISTER

Meeting at Chequers on Sunday, 13th April

This meeting is now being set up. But there are just a few outstanding questions.

1. Now that the Chairman is staying over night would you like the meeting to start before 11.00 am. If so at what time?  
*No - 11.00* (the meeting must finish at 5.00 pm at the latest)

2. I will have to be present from No. 10, if you agree. *Need*

Would you like Michael Alison to attend? *No need*

Do you want Brian Griffiths to attend? *Yes please not*

3. There is the question of the Chief Whip. Would you like him to attend? *No*

If not do you think you ought to talk to him about the meeting taking place.

I have emphasised to Caroline the importance of maintaining strict secrecy about this meeting. I am planning to do a short note to the Ministers attending, for their eyes only, explaining in the simplest terms the broad purpose of the meeting.

*Steven.*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

11.3.86

*mt*



10 DOWNING STREET

Strictly Private and Confidential

10th March, 1986

*Dear Claire*

I understand you proposed to the Prime Minister a small meeting at Chequers on looking ahead towards the next Election and how we might prepare for the Manifesto. Caroline Ryder has now earmarked Sunday, 13th April from 11.00 am until 5.00 pm.

The Prime Minister has asked if you could let me know

- (a) your suggestions of who should attend
- and
- (b) the format of the meeting you have in mind.

Once I hear from you I will then put your names to the Prime Minister for her approval and invite them accordingly.

It would also be helpful to know if you envisage any papers being circulated in advance of this meeting.

*Yours  
Stephen.*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP

April 13

11-5

PRIME MINISTER

I understand you spoke today to the Chairman who was proposing a small meeting at Chequers on the next General Election and the manifesto. Caroline is now looking at dates.

Once we have a date I suggest I write to the Chairman asking him to let you know:

- (a) his suggestions of those Ministers who should attend
- (b) what format for the meeting he has in mind.

You should then approve/amend the list of those attending and I will then notify people accordingly.

Do you agree?

Sg.

Yes msk

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

6.3.86

MR SHERBOURNE

MEETING AT CHEQUERS ON SUNDAY 13 APRIL

I have spoken to the Chairman's Office about Saturday 12 April and the 1800 hours meeting plus dinner plus overnight stay. As you mentioned in point two of your minute you will do the Parkinsons and the Bowman-Shaw's. Coincidentally, Cecil Parkinson's secretary rang me this morning (409-1622) saying that he wanted to see the Prime Minister some time. I mentioned the meeting and dinner on Saturday 12 April but said you would be in touch with her about details.

Re the Sunday meeting I have had acceptances from:

The Chairman

The Secretary of State for Employment

Michael Dobbs

Saatchis (John Sharkey)

The Foreign Secretary has a Chevening weekend organised but I suspect will cancel his lunch party on receipt of your letter.

More problematical is the Lord President whose important guests at Dorneywood would not understand a cancellation. I suspect they may be Royals. But he will come over to Chequers from 1100 to 1215. I think we will have to proceed with this weekend as the Prime Minister is tied up on all subsequent Sundays for a few weeks.

Content?

C.R.

C.R.

12 March 1986

cc Mrs Goodchild

MRS. RYDER

Meeting at Chequers on Sunday, 13th April

The Prime Minister and the Chairman discussed this meeting today and agreed the following:

1. Those attending the meeting on the Sunday should be:-

The Prime Minister

The Chairman ✓

? Lord Whitelaw ✓ - 11.00 - 12.15. Blue Jag B896 YHX.

? Nigel Lawson ✓

? Geoffrey Howe ✓ Clarendon (Green Jag - A471 RYV)

? David Young ✓

Michael Dobbs (from CCO) ✓

Somebody from Saatchis ✓ } Blue Jag A295 WAX 10.30

+ P.M.  
B.R.  
/

Pengob  
MGP 3987

In addition I will be attending and I will consult with the Prime Minister on who else she wants to attend from No. 10 and I will let you know.

2. On the Saturday night (the 12th April) the Prime Minister wants to invite the following for dinner, 7.00 for 7.30 pm:

Mr. and Mrs. Norman Tebbit

409.1622 Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Parkinson } I will approve these myself.

Sir Neville and Lady Bowman-Shaw }  
~~Green Rolls~~ XHM 617

on the Saturday evening

3. But the Prime Minister wants an earlier meeting/ at 6.00 pm until 7.00 of herself, the Chairman and Mr. Parkinson. (the Chairman will arrange for Mrs. Tebbit to be brought to Chequers after 6.00; Mrs. Parkinson may want to come with Cecil but she ought to be aware that there is a meeting from 6.00 to 7.00.)

4. The Chairman will stay at Chequers overnight. I am not clear whether Mrs. Tebbit would be staying as well and this will have to be cleared with the Chairman.

.../

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The Prime Minister knows the meeting<sup>on Sunday</sup> is due to last from 11.00 am until 5.00 pm but was toying with the idea of it starting earlier. I will ask her in a note and let you know.

Can I leave it to you to approach the Principal Private Secretaries of each Minister to notify them of this meeting at Chequers but please stress that it should be kept strictly confidential.

Once you have notified the Ministers would you like me to do a short note to them personally explaining what the meeting is all about. I think a letter from me for their eyes only is a better way of explaining the meeting than by telephone to their Private Secretaries.

*Stephen*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

11.3.86