

4 September 1981  
Policy Unit

PRIME MINISTER

CONFERENCE SPEECH

I shall be away on holiday at your meeting with Ronnie and John Gummer next week.

I don't feel that we got our lines quite as clear as I would have liked with John, but my view is as follows:

1. All papers should go to Ronnie and Ronnie must be in the hot seat when we actually get down to the work on the final drafts in Blackpool.
2. John Gummer's thinking is very helpful, but I don't find his writing particularly suitable for this sort of thing. So his drafts should be part of the input to Ronnie.
3. I think we all agreed that John's piece on nuclear weapons was the best part of his draft and we should leave him to do this.
4. We are suggesting that Peter Utley also writes a piece on Ulster, since this part of the speech must be particularly good this year.

Jude Rust

JOHN HOSKYNS

*ms.*