

From: The Rt. Hon. Sir Geoffrey Howe, QC MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

16th December, 1975

Dear Margaret

I am sure you get the same response as I do when you go to the City, namely the feeling that, for all our many visits there, we are still not getting across as successfully as we could - partly because Denis Healey and his colleagues are obviously making great efforts in that direction and partly because of the backlog of misunderstanding that still has to be overcome. This came through yesterday very clearly at a lunch that I attended with Hoare & Co. Govett Ltd. with fellow guests Alec Dibbs of the National Westminster Bank, Sir Peter Matthews, Chairman of Vickers, and Lewis Whyte, the Chairman of London Manchester. It is literally impossible for us to get round the scores of different institutions which would like to see us.

I wonder whether it would be conceivable for some kind of occasion to be mounted (the Stock Exchange Lecture perhaps) at which you could speak to a large audience in the City on a broad theme in which they would all be interested. I mentioned this to Gordon Reece and perhaps if you agree, I might explain it further to him at some stage.

I am also going to suggest to him that we might somehow find the means of organising two or three luncheons or dinners to which we might invite respectively the principal people from the clearing banks, the major insurance companies and the other major institutions. Perhaps we could have a word about this as well sometime.

For the record, I should mention that Hoare & Co. Govett and the National Westminster Bank are likely very shortly to press invitations upon you to attend one of their boardroom lunches. I made defensive noises on your behalf as vigorously as possible but I am afraid that the onslaught will still come!

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher M.P.

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