

G. Howe  
M.P.

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



HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

CONFIDENTIAL

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We have several times discussed with various colleagues the desirability of our trying to organise a more leisurely and extended discussion of broad policy themes and strategies. As you know, I have always been attracted to the idea that we should try to get away for most of a weekend to somebody's house not far from London for such a purpose. We have also had in mind the desirability, if possible, of preceding the weekend by an evening discussion between most of the participants in order to identify the main topics we want to pursue and perhaps to organise the production of three or four short papers for discussion.

Before I went on holiday, I had a chance of talking about this to Margaret who welcomed the idea in principle. We all recognise that it will not be easy to find a mutually agreeable date.

Some of the names that occurred to us as participants (apart from the three of us) are as follows:- Jim Prior, Ian Gilmour, John Nott, David Howell, John Biffen, Leon Brittan, Nick Ridley and Kenneth Clarke.

This list is probably too long, particularly since we thought there may be a case for including two or three outsiders such as Ronald Butt, Peter Lilley and Ralph Harris.

Perhaps we could have a word about this - if possible when we both meet with Margaret on Thursday of this week.

The Rt. Hon. Sir Keith Joseph Bt., M.P.  
House of Commons  
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cc The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher M.P.