



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

1 March 1982

*Mr. R. Cook,*

Thank you for your letter of 24 February and for very kindly sending me a copy of *The Odyssey*. Book XII is particularly interesting reading, and if you have another look at it I am sure you will understand what I said to the EEF.

You will find that by resisting the siren voices, Ulysses did save his ship from the rocks. After that success, he brought his ship and crew safely between the monster Scylla and the whirlpool Charybdis. His ship then made a safe landfall at the island of the Sun God, Hyperion. The crew, who could not resist temptation, were persuaded by Eurylochus, one of their number, to steal the Sun God's cattle. As a punishment, Zeus called up a storm and destroyed their ship when they tried to leave the island. But Ulysses, who had resisted temptation, and who had played no part in stealing the cattle, survived. In the end, he reached his home and his wife and regained his throne.

I think the moral of this is that if you stick to the road you have chosen, and resist temptation, you will reach home base in the end.

I am returning with this letter your copy of *The Odyssey* in case you want to have another look at Book XII.

Robin Cook, Esq., MP.

*Yours sincerely*

*Raymond Delisle*