



The Rt. Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

HOUSE OF COMMONS  
LONDON SW1A 0AA

30 May 1978

On Monday you printed a story about the reason for a change in the duties of Chris Patten, the ~~Head~~ <sup>Director</sup> of <sup>the</sup> Conservative Research Department, which was just not true.

As you know, I never make any complaint about things said concerning me, but when you cast a slur on any member of my staff, I must protest in the strongest possible terms.

Chris Patten is a most valued and trusted colleague. The work-load he has had to bear has been so great that it would have broken a lesser man.

We are in the run-up to an Election and I am trying to relieve the principal members of my team of as much routine as possible so that we can concentrate on planning the Campaign and the early period in Government. In this supremely important work Chris Patten will be a key person. That is the reason for the change. My confidence in him is complete and I am sorry you thought fit to insinuate the opposite.

Neither Sir Keith Joseph nor Mr. Airey Neave gave any advice to me on this matter. Your report in that respect was also wholly untrue.



30 May 1978

Finally, Shadow Cabinet Minutes record ~~only~~  
~~the decisions~~ ~~made~~ accurately.

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Sheldon

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The Editor,  
The Times.

STATEMENT BY THE RT HON MRS MARGARET THATCHER MP

Mr David Wolfson, 42, has joined the staff of Mrs Thatcher's Private Office. He will act as Secretary of the Shadow Cabinet to relieve the workload of Mr Christopher Patten, Director of the Conservative Research Department who is also Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for the Bath Constituency.

EMBARGO 16.00 Wednesday 31 May