



10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

28 October 1983

Dear Mr. Owen.

Thank you for your letter of 24 October about the Cenotaph Ceremony.

I do not agree with your account of the way the matter was left when you raised it with me in July. The contemporary note made by my office indicates that you would press your view with the Home Secretary, who, as you say, has the responsibility for issuing invitations. It was therefore natural that he should write to you about it.

I well understand your strong feelings on this matter. But you must recognise that representation on this and other national occasions is a matter in which Leaders of the other Parties also have an interest. Mr. Roy Jenkins, when Home Secretary, was faced with a similar request from the SNP. It is surely reasonable to have a review together with the other Parties, as the Home Secretary has suggested, and to decide the future arrangements in the light of that.

Since you made your letter available to the press, I am releasing this reply.

Yours sincerely
Margaret Thatcher

The Rt. Hon. Dr. David Owen, M.P.