

8/11

Dear Robbin.

This is not very  
much, 2 minutes.  
But I can not  
speak clearly enough  
to come with the

in  
thought  
←  
how  
what  
is  
needed  
Agree

Module 1 LORD Mayor's banquet speech

We are a strong government, because we know our own minds and rest on popular support. Neither of these two staples pillars of our strength was easily won. We could have put facile consensus above our duty to forge new ideas. But the consensus would have crumbled when faced with the need to take hard policy decisions. We could have taken refuge in the middle ground, as we were urged to do, splitting the difference between Benn and whomever you like, and doubling the number we first thought of. Instead, we thought matters through, argued them through, and come up with a shared view we honestly held, from which followed policies we honestly believe in.

We left the middle ground of the politicians and sought common ground which we could share with the people, to serve as the foundation from which we build and progress. We owe a great debt to Sir Keith Joseph for that insight.

We no longer need to ask how we stand in relation to other trends and viewpoints, because they are now seeking to come closer to us. We are now embarked on an era of reforms. We hope to do much more than simply put right past errors. In re-defining the scope of government, we must also concentrate all our efforts on those tasks which government alone can do. We need to carry them out with much greater effectiveness. The question: what should we be doing? can have more than one answer. But none of us doubt that much remains to be done in this country of ours.

Four years ago, when I first addressed your predecessor at this great gathering - which many of you present tonight attended - we should probably have been in broad agreement on what policies and measures would be desirable. Then, the thrust of argument would have been over what was possible. During four years, we have succeeded in moving the boundaries of what is considered possible.

We have now established the political conditions for a great age of reforms, to change the ground plan within which citizens, firms, departments of state make their decisions and carry them out. REform means much more than just putting right past mistakes. It means looking ahead to the kind of society which we should like to live in. It means much more than cutting government down to size and removing it from where it should not be. It means ensuring that wherever government's hand is needed, it is effective.

page 2

An age of Reform means divine discontent tempered by a sense of time and place and of history. It means compassion whose quality is no longer strained to a point where it becomes emotional self-indulgence or political coin, but which judges itself un sentimentally by results.

The state, any state, imposed obligations on you: laws, taxes, enjoins, prohibits. If the burden imposed by the state is too heavy, your own spontaneous contributions to the public good may be constrained. As the hand of the state grows lighter, I am sure that your spontaneous initiatives will grow manyfold.

end of fragment

module 2

When we began to prepare our former colonies in the British West Indies for independence, our preoccupations were economic and social, how to help these small, poor countries to help themselves and eventually stand on their own feet. For us, the Caribbean was a periphery, far-flung outposts, an area from which we hoped to disengage peacefully and with goodwill.

But for our American allies, the Caribbean means something quite different. The Caribbean basin, as they call it, means their southern border, their vital space. The approaches to their great shipping lane, the Panama Canal, run through the Caribbean, past Cuba, if you take one lane, past Grenada and other East Caribbean Islands, if you take the other. Shipping between America's great ports in the Gulf of Mexico and on the Atlantic coast must use the same route through the Caribbean. Venezuela and Mexico, at either end of the basin, are major suppliers of oil to the United States. In between, is the Isthmus of Central America, where international communism has established a bridgehead.

In Nicaragua, Cubans, East German and Bulgarians, who had just begun to establish themselves in Grenada, are present in their thousands, and exercise considerable authority. The Nicaraguan armed forces have more men and war-machines than the rest of Central America put together. Nicaragua is the base from which a war of terror is being waged against the elected Salvadorean Government, and its people. While the Government there attempts to implement long-overdue but most welcome reforms, to bring democracy, civilian rule and social and economic progress, the Communist guerrillas carry out assassinations, kidnappings for ransom, destroy buses, wells, road bridges, factories, to deprive ordinary people of their livelihood.

The United States government cannot but be involved, when world communism is carrying the fight into Uncle Sam's own backyard. Were communism to extend its grip there, Europe would be outflanked. The whole of American defence policy would be certain to be reconsidered. Neo-isolationism of both Conservative and neutralist varieties would erode the resolute Atlanticism which has characterised American policy since the war, and which is embodied in the strong American presence in Europe.

Our defences, Europe's defences, predicate support for our American allies. We cannot afford to see them fail. If we wish them to maintain an army in Germany, two fleets and an airforce this side of the Atlantic, we must help them. It is not a matter of blind unquestioning support; but of partnership towards a common end, with frank dialogue. There have been failures of communication; we shall overcome them. Because of our standing in the Caribbean, and the links which these Islands still maintain with Britain, we have a special contribution to make to the American defence effort there, small but vital.

During our lifetime, there were some people who said that Britain's frontier was on the Rhine, and they turned out to be right. Today, our frontier is in the Caribbean, and we must act accordingly. Our American allies will bear the main burden. But if we take no share, our frontiers on the European mainland will once again be in peril.

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