



10 DOWNING STREET

24 February 1983

Dear Mr Flintham

The Prime Minister has asked me to write and thank you for your letter of 21 January to which she has asked me to reply.

On the subject of books, the Prime Minister has no particular favourite, but some of those she has read and enjoyed are:

- (1) A TALE OF TWO CITIES
Charles Dickens
- (2) TINKER, TAILOR, SOLDIER, SPY
John Le Carre
- (3) THE FIRST CIRCLE
Alexander Solzhenitsyn
- (4) THE SPIRIT OF ENGLAND
Sir Arthur Bryant
- (5) THE SEED AND THE SOWER
Sir Laurens van der Post.

I appreciate the reasons behind the request contained in the fourth paragraph of your letter. However, should you wish confirmation of the above, a telephone call to the Press Office at No 10 Downing Street (01-930 4433 Ext 120) should meet your requirements.

I have also enclosed a portrait of the Prime Minister. Perhaps when the Book Page runs to print you would be good enough to let me have a copy?

With best wishes.

Yours sincerely

MISS E B FRIER
PRESS OFFICE

David Flintham Esq
The Northern Echo

MISS J ROBBILIARD

At this time of year we receive many requests for "the Prime Minister's favourite book 1983". We usually meet these requests by listing books Mrs Thatcher has read and enjoyed.

So far I have been able to identify three books, all of which, I understand, she listened to on tape during her convalescence. They are:

1. THE STORY OF IRELAND - Brian Inglis.
2. THE TRIAL OF CHARLES I - C V Wedgwood
3. THE SALAMANDER - Morris West.

If there are any others you can name, I would be grateful if you would let me have a note of them. Quite apart from the Christmas rush, we do find such information useful background to meet telephone queries, letters from the public, as well as the Book Page of various regional newspapers.

Beth Frier

BETH FRIER
PS/R CHRISTOPHERSON

7 December 1983