



FROM: THE RT.HON. SIR KEITH JOSEPH, Bt. MP.

KJ/SMC

16th May 1978

Rt.Hon. Mrs. Margaret Thatcher, MP.

PERSONAL

Dear Margaret.

I do not listen to the radio very much and I do not have a television set. I am not, therefore, aware immediately when you are attacked.

This note is to say that I am always ready to pick up any attack that is made upon you and to speak in your defence.

Would you be kind enough to let your office know that if ever such an attack occurs which it is thought should be answered, ~~that~~ I am available at once to co-operate in whatever way seems best.

I can always be found either through the Centre or, if not at 351-3806, then through Hellen at 352-9332.

It may not always be I that would be the most suitable defender, but whenever I am suitable or others are not available I am willing & ready.

Yours ever

Keith

No reply, I assume -

8in K-5.

PRIVATE

17 May 1978



I am writing to acknowledge your kind letter of May 16th with your offer to speak in Mrs. Thatcher's defence at any time. I will of course make sure she sees it as soon as possible.

I have been very worried for a long time about the inadequate system for reacting to, or in some cases even initiating, news over the weekends. As far as I am aware, Central Office, and by that I mean the Chairman of the Party, is responsible for making sure that we are strictly monitoring events and commenting upon them where applicable. Central Office have not always shown the greatest enthusiasm to carry out what I have always regarded as a fairly basic rule of thumb.

Richard Ryder
Private Office

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph, Bt MP