



SLH

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CWO

10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

3 June 1986

Dear Edward.

Thank you for your letter of 19 May asking if I would receive a delegation from the Parliamentary Maritime Group to discuss ^{market} American shipping. I do very much appreciate your concern on this issue but I am sure you will understand that it is not my normal practice to receive All-Party delegations of the kind you suggest. I know, however, that John Moore, together with the appropriate Ministerial colleagues would be willing to receive your delegation and I should be grateful if you could approach him at least in the first instance. If, after that meeting, you yourself would like to discuss the matter with me I should of course be happy to do so.

Yours ever

Raymond

The Rt. Hon. Sir Edward du Cann, K.B.E., M.P.

ca

E.R.

MR. FLESHER

As you should have seen, the Prime Minister agreed not to take up Sir Edward du Cann's suggestion that she meet the All Party Committee on Shipping. She suggested they be referred to the two Ministers with relevant responsibilities.

Would you deal please?

MLA

MARK ADDISON

2 June 1986

LOSACP

cc: Mr. Addison

MR. FLESHER

We are to discuss at the next diary meeting the letter from Sir Edward du Cann asking the Prime Minister to meet the All Party Committee on Shipping.

The Chief Whip spoke to me again today about this. As you know, he had advised that the Prime Minister should not meet the Committee. He suggests that she should reply to Sir Edward's letter on the lines that it is not her practice to meet All Party Committees, but that she knows Paul Channon would be willing to talk to them. (Something that we need to confirm). She should go on to say that if Sir Edward wishes to see her after the meeting with Mr. Channon, she would, as always, be willing to meet him.

NLW

N.L. WICKS
23 May 1986

BM2ANN

E. R. JALASD

- OK 21/5.
CDP 22/5
1. Mr. Norgrove
 2. Mr Powell
 3. Prime Minister

cc: Mr Alison

Attached is a request from Edward du Cann that you should meet members of the Parliamentary Maritime Group presumably to discuss the consequences of the recent shipbuilding redundancies on the merchant fleet. It is very unusual for you to see All-Party Groups and I am not very keen on the way in which a story in which Edward du Cann led an all-Party delegation including for example Jim Callaghan and David Owen to see you would be presented. Moreover Edward du Cann's intervention on the subject in the House last week was not exactly helpful.

Perhaps you would like to discuss at the next diary meeting whether you should receive Edward du Cann's delegation or whether they might be diverted to a group of the relevant Ministers.

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Tim Flesher
21 May 1986

From the Rt Hon Sir Edward du Cann, KBE, MP



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

cc dda
221
19th May 1986

L. Maynard

As you know, I am Chairman of the Parliamentary Maritime Group, which was originally established by James Callaghan, David Owen and myself, under the auspices of the British Maritime League. Its membership now includes around one hundred Members of Parliament.

Our members are most concerned at the decline of the British Merchant Fleet, a view which I have expressed in the House on more than one occasion as you know. I am sure it is possible to suggest ideas and policies which might be of assistance in this scene, which has very worrying implications, both from the point of view of defence and the economy.

My colleagues would be most grateful if you would receive a small deputation of their members in order to discuss the matter.

*Yours
Edward*

The Rt Hon Mrs Margaret Thatcher, M.P.
10 Downing Street
S W 1