



Conservative Central Office

32 Smith Square Westminster SW1P 3HH
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From:
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY
Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP

Meeting with the Prime Minister, Monday 19th January at
4.00 p.m.

A G E N D A

1. ✓ Membership of (a) One Nation Forum
(b) The Durbar Club
2. ✓ Ulster Unionists
3. ✓ Absent Voting Forms
~~_____~~
4. ✓ The Guardian
5. ✓ Holiday with Mrs Tebbit
Week of Monday 31st March.
6. ✓ Emma Nicholson
7. ✓ Protection -
8. Timing of publication of Campaign Guide
(see attached letter)

THE DURBAR CLUB

THE CLUB WAS FOUNDED IN 1981 BY NARINDAR SAROOP WITH THE OBJECT OF BRINGING THE PARTY CLOSER TO RICH ASIAN BUSINESSMEN AND ALSO RAISING MONEY FOR THE PARTY. HE STILL ACTS AS CHAIRMAN AND SECRETARY. THERE IS AN IMPRESSIVE LIST OF OFFICIALS.

PATRONS: THE PRIME MINISTER
 LORD HOME

PRESIDENT: THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY

VICE PRESIDENTS: ASHRAF ADAMJEE CRANLEY ONSLOW
 MICHAEL CRAIG COOPER WALTER GOLDSMITH
 JOHN GUMMER CECIL PARKINSON
 SIR PÉTER LANE LORD SANDERSON
 SHIRAZ MALIK-NOOR MICHAEL SPICER

NEITHER MY PREDECESSOR, MERVYN KOHLER OR I HAVE EVER SEEN A MEMBERSHIP LIST BUT I AM RELIABLY INFORMED THAT MEMBERSHIP STANDS AT 23. (IT WAS AT ONE TIME OVER 50). MEMBERS PAY £1,000 P.A.

SINCE ITS INCEPTION THE CLUB HAS PROVIDED MONEY FOR THE PARTY. MY INFORMATION IS THAT THEY HAVE PROVIDED:

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | INITIAL FUNDING FOR CENTRAL OFFICE
COMPUTER | - £75,000 |
| 2. | NEWCASTLE CONSTITUENCIES | - £6,000 |
| 3. | HAMMERSMITH NORTH COMPUTER | - £1,700 |
| 4. | VARIOUS BY-ELECTIONS SINCE 1981 | - £15,000 |
| 5. | VARIOUS ADVERTISEMENTS SUPPORTING
PARTY AND AD HOC CONTRIBUTIONS
TO DIFFERENT CONSTITUENCIES | - £10,000 |

£107,000

THE CLUB HAS A NUMBER OF DINNERS DURING THE YEAR USUALLY ADDRESSED BY A CABINET MINISTER. DOUGLAS HURD WAS THE MOST RECENT SPEAKER AND GEORGE YOUNGER AND SIR GEOFFREY HOWE HAVE AGREED TO SPEAK IN 1987.

THE CLUB IS INDEPENDENT OF THE PARTY. I BELIEVE THAT ROGER BOADEN WAS A MEMBER OF THE COMMITTEE WHEN HE WORKED FOR THE PARTY TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT BUT HIS ASSOCIATION WITH THE CLUB ENDED SOME YEARS AGO. NO PARTY OFFICIAL IS OTHERWISE INVOLVED.

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ULSTER UNIONISTS

1. At present the rules of the National Union provide for the Ulster Unionist Council to have representation on the National Union Executive Committee, on the General Purposes Committee of the National Union and to the Central Council. This includes the Party Conference.
2. On 29th April, the Secretary of the Ulster Unionist Council wrote to advise us that at its AGM the Executive Committee of the UUC decided to "discontinue our representation on the Conservative National Union, this in protest against the Anglo-Irish Agreement".
3. There had been some feeling within the National Union that the Ulster Unionists should be denied their representation. They had not been present at recent meetings and they had threatened to field Unionist candidates against our candidates in some of the west of Scotland constituencies. This letter from the Unionists gave them, they felt, the reason to act.
4. Accordingly, the Standing Review Committee of the National Union included amongst its proposed recommended rule changes the deletion from the rules of all rights of representation by the Ulster Unionists. The Review Committee's proposals, including these, were agreed at a meeting of the Executive Committee last November. There was no dissension at the meeting.
5. The proposed changes are due for ratification at the Central Council meeting on 20th March next. If it is decided not to proceed with the changes it would be necessary for the Executive to delete the recommendation at its meeting on 12th February which is prior to the sending out of the Central Council agenda.
6. Both Sir Peter Lane and Lord Sanderson are quite happy to recommend the deletion of these changes if this is felt advisable. They would be supported by the Chairman of the Standing Review Committee.

They would say that since the Ulster Unionists had themselves decided to discontinue their representation there was no urgency about amending the rules. It might be that in the future the general wish would be that the representation should be resumed and that this would leave the door open.

7. Their recommendations would no doubt be carried, although there may be some feelings expressed that, bearing in mind the behaviour of the Ulster Unionists, the original recommendation should be adhered to. Confidentiality at the Executive Committee cannot be guaranteed and any change in the present plans might reach the press.

ASG
16.1.87.

Application Forms for Postal and Proxy Voters

1. A new system of absent voting comes into effect on 16th February, 1987. The application forms came into use on 1st January this year.
2. The main forms are RPF9, to vote by post or proxy at a particular election for any valid reason; RPF7B, long-term absent votes for the physically disabled and the blind; and RPF7, long-term absent votes for those unable to vote in person by reason of their occupation, service or employment.
3. The political parties were not shown drafts of the application forms prior to printing, although this has often been the practice in the past, and had no opportunity of making representations before printing. After seeing the forms we have made several suggestions to the Home Office, some of which will, I understand, be taken up when forms are re-printed. In particular, as the forms all look very alike, we have asked if the three forms mentioned above can be printed in different colours to avoid confusion.
4. For the first time electors on holiday on polling day will be allowed to apply for a postal or proxy vote at an election (for the one election only). Applications may also be made by any elector who can show reasonable cause for not voting in person. Consequently we anticipate a great many applications immediately after the announcement of the general election, particularly as the new provisions will be advertised widely in the national press at that time.
5. Depending on the length of notice given prior to the Royal Proclamation, it seems likely that applications will have to be made within little over a week. The last time for the receipt of applications is noon on the thirteenth working day before polling day. If the Royal Proclamation is on a Tuesday, as we expect, applications cannot be accepted, except for a few medical emergency cases, after noon on the following Monday.
6. In view of the above it is very important that our agents are well supplied with application forms. We have asked the Home Office if bulk supplies can be made available, but the position at the moment is that it is left to individual registration officers to decide how many forms to give to agents, and many seem to think that a few dozen forms is a generous allotment. It seems likely that we will have to print supplies in order to supply constituency associations with an adequate supply, at considerable cost.
7. The incorporation of facsimile application forms in Home Office press advertisements has been suggested, but we think it important that this is not done. Such forms were printed in the two general elections in 1974, but this led to great confusion. Although the number of electors entitled to apply for absent votes at that time was much less than will be the case from February onwards, registration officers received large numbers of the facsimile forms, many wrongly completed and on the wrong forms. In consequence many genuine applications were not processed in time and votes were lost. The new forms are probably more complicated than before and the number of potential applicants has increased enormously.
8. In spite of the above we are considering printing a Conservative advertisement in the Daily Telegraph only, after the Proclamation, probably too late for the idea to be initiated by the other parties in other papers. This would be possible legally, and replies from the one paper would probably be completed more competently than from the popular press.
9. We are now awaiting word from the Home Secretary about the provision of bulk supplies. Whether these are forthcoming or not, we are determined that agents will be in possession of adequate supplies before the end of February. Other postal voting aids such as instructions to agents, guides for the use of voluntary helpers, simple explanations of the new procedures etc., are already prepared.



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From:
THE CHAIRMAN OF THE PARTY
Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit MP

STRICTLY PERSONAL &
CONFIDENTIAL

16th January 1987

TO/ The Prime Minister

TIMING OF THE CAMPAIGN GUIDE

Work is well advanced on the general election Campaign Guide which we will send out, as usual, to all candidates, constituency agents and selected journalists. I have discussed the possible publication dates with Robin Harris and Alistair Cooke. I would welcome the chance to have your view when we meet on Monday.

We have provisionally decided to work towards publication on Thursday, 19th March (which would mean sending it to the printer in the week beginning 2nd February). This would allow you to go to the country soon after the Budget on 17th March. Obviously, that is unlikely: it implies a general election on, perhaps, Thursday, 16th April (Maunday Thursday). But you may feel that you want the option of an election before the local elections left open.

We plan to reassess the position within Central Office on Friday, 30th January and I would propose to report to you again with our view on Monday, 2nd February. We could at that stage either go ahead for publication on 19th March or postpone it.

The advantage of publishing in March would be that the information in the Campaign Guide could be put to good use in the local elections and otherwise. The disadvantage would be that it would certainly increase election speculation.

If we decide to delay sending the text to the printers then, we would need to take further stock of the position in the week beginning Monday, 16th February. For we would have to send the text of the Campaign Guide to the printers on Monday, 23rd February (to have it out in the week beginning Monday, 6th April) for a general election to coincide with the local elections on Thursday, 7th May.

It is worth noting that we envisage no difficulty in storing the Campaign Guides at our warehouse in Reading after production by McCorquodales and only releasing them at an appropriate time: for example, we could send out the Campaign Guides early in the week beginning Monday, 11th May if you should decide to go to the country in June in the light of the local election results which you would have been able to study over the weekend.

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The Research Department would, in the case of a substantial period elapsing between Campaign Guide publication and a general election, update its contents through a long Politics Today - or, in the event of a 1988 election, through a bound supplement.



For Norman Tebbit