



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

11th March, 1987

Dear Norman

Before Question Time yesterday, I had to brief the Prime Minister about our propaganda against the Liberals in case David Steel or any other Liberal challenged her on it.

On the Conservative leaflet on Liberal policies (circulated, I think, in Truro), which contained six allegations about Liberal policy, the Research Department was able to provide for me effective substantiation and there was no problem here.

When it came to our recent advertisement in the Daily Express on defence, I also had to provide for the Prime Minister a quotation to justify the second of these two sentences:

"Mr. Kinnock has recently promised to dismantle all our nuclear weapons. In September last year, the Liberals also committed themselves to the same cause at their national assembly."

I was able to produce for the Prime Minister various quotations from David Steel and other Liberals (though not at the 1986 Liberal Assembly) expressing their opposition to an independent nuclear deterrence. I was also able to tell the Prime Minister that at the 1986 Assembly, the Liberals voted that any defence co-operation with Europe must be non-nuclear.

However, the Prime Minister was then concerned to know how she would deal with a more precise question from David Steel such as "can the Prime Minister quote from any motion passed at last year's Liberal Assembly which called for the dismantling of Polaris".

I appreciate, of course, that the wording in the advert referred to the Liberals committing themselves to the same cause and I told the Prime Minister that her line would have to be that "last year the unilateralists won the day and the Liberal Assembly voted for a non-nuclear defence policy."

.... /

Nevertheless, the Prime Minister was concerned that all advertisements and Party Political Broadcasts should (a) be accurate (b) should not allow our opponents to accuse us of inaccuracy, and (c) should therefore be capable of being substantiated by the Prime Minister or other Ministers in the House of Commons or in interviews. She therefore believes that it is imperative that all such advertisements and PPBs should be carefully checked by the Research Department for accuracy and that in order to avoid any confusion over who in the Research Department is responsible, one person should be specially charged with the responsibility of ensuring the factual accuracy of all articles and PPBs.

It may be that this is already the case and that such a person is clearly responsible but I know that the Prime Minister would find it helpful to have your reassurance on this and the name of the person.

*Yours
Stephen*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP



Prime Minister's Sec.

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

NT/SCH

17th March 1987

D Stephen

Thank you for your letter of 11th March 1987. I know the question of briefing has been dealt with by Robin Harris.

I would like to confirm that since I have been here Robin Harris has been specifically charged with the responsibility of ensuring that all material for leaflets, P.P.B.s etc is fully cleared and can be justified.

Stephen Sherbourne, Esq.



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STRICTLY PERSONAL

11th March, 1987

Dear Norman

The Prime Minister has become aware that Emma Nicholson is planning what I think is being called an Afro-Caribbean Conference. I understand that this might be taking place in July.

I told you some time ago of the Prime Minister's general concern about this kind of conference. But I think the Prime Minister would be very much happier if this conference were not to take place. I realise that this may require firm but tactful handling by you. I am writing this letter so that you are aware of the Prime Minister's views on this matter. If there is any further action you think I need to take in order to ensure that this conference does not take place, do let me know.

Yours

Stephen

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

P.S. I hope this is helpful!

The Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP