

M1 file Scotland P 7/8

MR. SHERBOURNE

You will wish to know the Prime Minister's reaction to my minute of 30 July about follow-up action to her dinner with Scottish Office Ministers.

She has agreed to action on proposals 2,3,4 and 5, and on 8,9,10 and 11. On proposal 1 she has commented "a little too ambitious", and she has deleted proposals 6 and 7 on which she has not authorised further action by you or me.

I shall follow up the proposals which fall to Private Office. Could I please leave you to follow up proposal 8 - Party reorganisation in Scotland - and proposal 11 - involving Scottish industrialists more in Party work in Scotland.

N.L.W.

(N.L. WICKS)

3 August 1987

PMMAFG

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Sherbourne ✓

Nsen

3/8

I did not take a note of last night's discussion, but noted down the main points for action. They are listed, in random order, on the sheet attached. It would be helpful to have your views on the points of action indicated. Subject to what you say, either Stephen Sherbourne or myself will carry forward the action.

(N.L. WICKS)

30 July 1987

DCACBS

PROPOSAL

ACTION

COMMENT

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Every week between now and the next Election one or two Cabinet Ministers should visit Scotland. Michael Ancram to supervise arrangements. | <u>Prime Minister</u> to mention at September Cabinet.
<u>Mr. Rifkind</u> to arrange and let you have six-monthly progress reports, e.g. indicating which Ministers have gone and have not gone. | Should we adopt similar arrangements for Wales? |
| 2. Prime Minister to pay occasional 'flying' visits to Scotland for particular events, not associated with tours, speeches etc. | <u>Private Office (AB)</u> to put proposals to <u>Prime Minister</u> when she decides diary. | |
| 3. More cross-postings between English Departments and Scottish Office at senior levels, especially involving Civil Servants from English Departments working in comparable Scottish Office Departments. | <u>NLW</u> to speak to Sir Robert Armstrong. | Part of effort to make the Scottish Office take a more 'United Kingdom' approach. |
| 4. Carry forward 'Thatcherism' in Scotland. | See the note attached. | |
| 5. Cabinet meeting in Edinburgh. | <u>Prime Minister</u> to consider substance and presentation. | Needs much preparation if it is to avoid the impression of gimmickry, condescension and running after Scotland. What about Wales? |

DCACBQ

<u>PROPOSAL</u>	<u>ACTION</u>	<u>COMMENT</u>
6. Recognising meritorious Conservative supporters in Honours list.	Stephen Sherbourne to tell Mr. Rifkind to get a grip on his Honours list recommendations.	
7. Recognising Conservative supporters in other ways.	Mr. Rifkind to come up with ideas.	Stephen Sherbourne to tell Mr. Rifkind to come up with ideas.
8. Party re-organisation, including targeting of seats and particular groups.	Stephen Sherbourne to ensure Prime Minister is kept in touch with work of Chairman at CCO and Scottish Party.	
9. Holding more national UK events in Scotland like award ceremonies.	NLW to ask Mr. Rifkind to come up with ideas.	
10. A better media balance for the Conservative Party in Scotland.	Needs concerted plan by senior Conservative figures. Prime Minister to talk further with Mr. Tebbit, Lord Whitelaw, Mr. Rifkind etc.	
11. Involving Scottish industrialists more in Conservative Party work in Scotland.	Stephen Sherbourne to check with Lord Gould what he intends to do.	

DCACBQ SEE OVER FOR NOTE ON PROPOSAL 4

NOTE ON PROPOSAL 4

The Scottish Office has never been known as a Department which has been to the fore in pressing forward the more radical of Government policies. Nor are there pressures from the centre (the Prime Minister and the Treasury) comparable to those on the English Departments pushing the Scottish Office to bolder action. This is because there is insufficient knowledge in London about the Scottish scene for an independent Whitehall view to be taken of Scottish Office business; and Scottish Office matters are not usually sufficiently important to involve much Whitehall time being spent on them. So, as Brian Griffiths reported in his paper, 'Thatcherism' has been applied much more timidly in Scotland - no privatisation yet of the Scottish Bus Group, opposition to Forestry Commission privatisation, proportionately lower council house sales, no proposals yet to privatise water in Scotland, and less radical education reform envisaged.

This analysis suggests that there needs to be action on two fronts:

- (i) the Scottish Office needs to galvanize itself to implement the more radical reforms; and
- (ii) there needs to be a stronger external stimulus upon them to make sure they do.

If you agree, I will discuss possibilities here with Sir Robert Armstrong. One possibility would be a little committee, e.g. under the Lord President, to check through each area of Scottish Office business. But that would be a rather cumbersome method of dealing with the problem. But we certainly need some such instrument.

If you agree, I will talk to Sir Robert and report.

DCACBR

LIST OF GUESTS ATTENDING THE WORKING SUPPER
TO BE GIVEN BY THE PRIME MINISTER ON
WEDNESDAY, 29 JULY 1987 AT 1915 HOURS

The Prime Minister

Rt. Hon. Lord Whitelaw

Rt. Hon. George Younger, MP

Rt. Hon. Malcolm Rifkind, MP

Mr. Ian Lang, MP

The Lord Sanderson of Bowden

Lord James Douglas-Hamilton, MP

Mr. Michael Forsyth, MP

Rt. Hon. Norman Tebbit, MP

The Lord Goold

Mr. Nigel Wicks

The Hon. Archie Hamilton, MP

Amanda -

I attach a copy
of the list for
"Scottish" Workshop
Supper

Sue