

PN <sup>Political</sup> ~~Sam~~  
N. L. W

MR. WICKS

I appreciate the Prime Minister will have other things on her mind in Vancouver, but I would like her to be kept in touch with feelings in London concerning the position of the Chairman. At a suitable moment, therefore, could you apprise her of the following points:

(1) the Labour Party are beginning to use the situation to score points. The Prime Minister will be aware of the letter from Mr. Kinnock. Walworth Road are also producing a list of companies which have had dealings with the Department of Trade and Industry and have also contributed to Tory Party funds.

(2) There is growing feeling from all of those involved that the Prime Minister must end the speculation as soon as possible.

(3) As far as timing is concerned, please remind her that:

- (a) the Chairman is in America from 25-29 October;
- (b) Lord Young is in China from 15-24 October;
- (c) Mr. Kinnock will want to make mischief in the House when it resumes on 21 October.

She should also be aware of the first item in the Daily Telegraph Peterborough column (15 October) about Saatchi's resigning the account. There is some feeling that she should be wary of being used in a power struggle between the two advertising agencies (this may be a false interpretation, but I am asked to pass it on). The Chairman informed no one at Central Office of any letter from Saatchi's to the Prime Minister. Only three or four people in Saatchi's knew of it. He has asked me to say the leak did not come from Central Office.

Line I am taking

(1) Mr. Kinnock's letter: the Prime Minister is in Vancouver where she is taking a leading part in the international business of the Conference. Mr. Kinnock's letter will await her return and be replied in due course.

(2) Saatchi story

I cannot comment on letters which may not even have been written, let alone received. Can I remind you that the agency made a substantial contribution to the presentation at the Blackpool conference last week, which was one of the best ever? I suppose it is inevitable that some would want to deter from that success story. I am not being drawn any further, since anything we say only adds fuel to the fire. The Prime Minister will not want to be rushed into announcing her decision on the new chairman, but in fact the timetable does not give her a great deal of scope. I do not know if it is customary for her to publish her thank-you letter to the out-going chairman, but there would be obvious advantage in her doing so this time.

Please tell her I would welcome the opportunity to discuss the presentation of the announcement when she returns from abroad. I will also prepare some Q and A.

CHRISTINE WALL

14 October 1987

Nigel 

~~I have been asked to pass on~~

The Chairman has asked me to convey the attached thoughts. ~~which he was seen.~~

Can I leave you to judge how much the PM needs to concern herself with it at this <sup>busy</sup> time?

Could you also warn Bernard that a question might be planted at his morning briefing. He will not want to be drawn.

MR WICKS

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Page Two

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*Christine*

CHRISTINE WALL

15.10.87

The Chairman informed no-one at Central Office of any letter from Saatchis to the Prime Minister. Only three or four people in Saatchis knew of it. He has asked me to say the leak did not come from Central Office.