

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr. Ingham

Lord Longford telephoned me to say that he has abandoned the book for which you gave him an interview in October. He would like instead to write an article for the Catholic paper "The Universe", using the material either on a non-attributable basis or by saying that it was derived from an interview. He would send us a copy of the article prior to publication.

I believe that the material (copy attached) is quite harmless. May I say that you are content for him to draw on the material for his article, saying that it is based on an interview, provided that you have the chance to see the article in draft and to make any amendments you consider necessary?

FER.B
I would rather not do it
on an interview basis. I had always
intended it to be background
non-attributable.

11 February 1983

mb

216 -

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc Mr Ingham

I spoke to Lord Longford on the telephone about his request for the Prime Minister's permission to use the interview she gave him in October as the basis for an article in the Catholic paper "The Universe".

I said that the Prime Minister was agreeable to his using the material in this way as non-attributable background, off the record, rather than on an interview basis. I also asked Lord Longford to let me see a copy of the article in draft, and he agreed to do so.

F.R.B

18 February 1983

RA

LONGFORD

File
F.

SIDGWICK & JACKSON

Limited

PUBLISHERS

Telegrams: Watergate, London
Telephones: 01-242 6081/2/3

Registered Office:

Place of Registration: London, England
Registered Number of Company: 100126



1 Tavistock Chambers

Bloomsbury Way, London W.C.1A 2SG

18th October 1982

Adam Butler Esq
Private Secretary
10 Downing Street
W1

Mr M. Butler

Thank you so much for being so kind to me on Friday.
I enclose a short letter of thanks to the Prime Minister.
Perhaps you would be kind enough to show it to her in due
course.

I now have the task of supplementing and, where necessary,
correcting the section of my book of which you and she have
already seen a draft. That will take a little time. In any
case the book does not have to go to the publishers until
the end of January, by which time there will obviously be
many developments. I venture to enclose, however, a note
that I made of the meeting which, unless you tell me that
I have misunderstood what she said, I would propose to use
as a basis in revising the chapter. I hope that the
reference to 'my family governess' will not jar. I was
devoted to my governess, who taught me far more than
anyone else did subsequently.

I do not expect reciprocation in sending you my notes.
I always enjoyed reading the somewhat different accounts
given by the British Ambassador and the German Chancellor
before the outbreak of war in August 1914. The British
Ambassador represented the German Chancellor as 'bursting
into tears'. The German Chancellor reported of the British
Ambassador that he was the one in tears, and had to ask
leave to compose himself in the ante-room! I am so glad
that you find Ferdy so congenial. He might be amused to
see this report. So possibly might Carol Thatcher, as I
am appearing on her show on November 20th. Whether you
show all or any of it to the Prime Minister, I naturally
leave to you. She has much more important things to
study.

*Yours sincerely
Frank Longford*

Earl of Longford KG PC

Chairman: THE EARL OF LONGFORD, K.G., P.C.

Managing Director: WILLIAM ARMSTRONG

Joint Deputy Managing Directors: W.D. PROCTER, S. du SAUTOY

Directors: ROCCO FORTE, DAVID KARR (U.S.A.), R.A. SHADBOLT

Our whole discussion, I should mention, was conducted against ^{the background of} my acceptance (in the ^{draft} paper she had seen) that she was the first moralist ^{Prime Minister} ~~politician~~ in this century, even though I did not agree with many of her policies. I had also mentioned in the Lords and in the ^{my} draft paper my recognition that she herself had shown self-sacrifice by giving up a quarter of her salary. I told her that if I had not resigned from the Labour Cabinet in 1968 my deciding vote would have been given in favour of a reduction in Cabinet salaries, which would then have taken place. Why could ~~it~~ she ^{not} promote a general spirit of self-sacrifice without appearing to confine herself to expecting sacrifices from the Trades Unions? She seemed to turn it over in her mind. There was not time for me to raise the question of the family, which she appears to be devoting much attention to, and on which ^{Ferdus} ~~Ferdus~~ has recently published a book. I told her that I applauded her powerful support for the Atlantic system of defence. I did not raise the question of the Falklands.

OF MONETARISM SHE SAID: YOU MEAN HONEST MONEY

I agreed with Lord Longford that this paragraph should be deleted.

On the way out her Private Secretary said with some satisfaction, 'A formidable lady,' ^{with} in which I heartily concurred. He thought that her demand for a new spirit of 'giving rather than getting' was well attuned to the present moment. I said: 'So long as she doesn't antagonise forty per cent of the population by the way she sets about things! He was confident that this would not happen. 'He would be, wouldn't he?' as Mandy Rice-Davies ^{might} ~~would~~ have said. But I know he meant it.

Have I anything to ^{add} in retrospect? Just this. We have heard at different moments about various kinds of society: 'the permissive society', 'the civilised society', 'the compassionate society', to name

'SEMPER ALIQUID NOVI'

Founded 1908

SIDGWICK & JACKSON
Limited
PUBLISHERS

Telegrams: Watergate, London
Telephones: 01-242 6081/2/3
Telex: 8952953 SIDJAK G
Place of Registration: London, England
Registered Number of Company: 100126



Registered Office:

1 Tavistock Chambers

Bloomsbury Way, London WC1A 2SG

18th October 1982

The Rt Hon the Prime Minister Mrs Margaret Thatcher
10 Downing Street
W1

To Her Prime Minister

I cannot thank you enough for your kindness in finding time to see me at such length on Friday, and for taking such trouble to explain your ideas. I have sent Adam Butler some notes I made after the meeting, but as I say in my letter to him, you have much more important things to study. I have suggested that Carol might care to look through the notes before my participation in her show on 20th November. If I may say so respectfully, I am glad to find that our Prime Minister is in such excellent health and spirits.

Yr faithfully

Paul Taylor

no reply I could

Earl of Longford KG PC

Managing Director: William Armstrong

Deputy Managing Director: J. N. Newton

Directors: The Earl of Longford, K.G., P.C., P. M. Coley, Rocco Forte, W. D. Procter, R. A. Shadbolt, V. Stace, M. Willes

A member of the Trusthouse Forte Group

Registered Office: 7 Hanover Square, London, W1R 0PS