



10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

THE PRIME MINISTER

Wednesday 27/1/88.

Dear Willie

I cannot thank you
enough for the dinner last evening.
It was perfect - historic, warm
& friendly, a feeling for the future,
and above all - you back in London
and our host.

Somehow it was very relaxed -
what a pity we don't meet together

more often for convivial occasions.
But perhaps there is a time.

We love Niki's portrayal
of No 10. It has so much
charm - what a remarkable person
he is.

Darky on for an evening
we shall forever remember.

Yours ever

Margaret

PA : CABINET Dinner to PM



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

28 January 1988

Lord Whitelaw has asked me to send all his fellow hosts of the Cabinet dinner on Tuesday a copy of the letter of thanks he has received from the Prime Minister.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be "M J Eland". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the letters "M", "J", and "E" being particularly prominent.

M J ELAND
Private Secretary

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

Ma

PRIME MINISTER

c. Mr Thatcher

CABINET DINNER: TUESDAY 26 JANUARY

The Cabinet will be holding a dinner in your honour on Tuesday 26 January at 8.00 pm for 8.15 pm to celebrate your record as the longest serving Prime Minister this century. Lord Whitelaw will be in the chair. The dinner will be held at the Carlton Club (though for security reasons Ministers will not be told this until Tuesday). Dress will be black tie (no decorations). Besides Lord Whitelaw (in his capacity as Deputy Leader of the Party and Chairman of the Carlton Club) there will be present all members of the Cabinet, the Chief Whip and the Chairman of the Party. Lord Whitelaw has kindly also invited Robin and myself.

The Lord Privy Seal's office are in touch with Bernard about some modest arrangements for photographs.

I should not be surprised if Lord Whitelaw did not make you a small presentation and make a short speech. You will no doubt wish to respond in suitable terms. I rather expect that you will want to do this entirely in your own words. But I am ready to prepare some notes if you would like.

N.L.W.

nt

NIGEL WICKS

22 January 1988

VSCAHD

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL



Ma

MR WICKS

You asked me to act as linkman with Lord Whitelaw over the organisation of the dinner to celebrate the Prime Minister's record service. This note is intended to bring you up to date on arrangements so far.

2. The dinner will take place on Tuesday 26 January at 8.00 pm for 8.15 pm at the Carlton Club. Dress will be black tie. In addition to the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher, attendance will be Lord Whitelaw (in his capacity as Deputy Leader of the Party and Chairman of the Carlton Club), all present members of the Cabinet, the Chairman of the Party, the Chief Whip, the Secretary of the Cabinet and, of course, yourself.

3. All of those attending are being advised of these arrangements by telephone and warned not to disclose them further for security reasons.

4. Lord Whitelaw has asked me to discuss media coverage with Bernard Ingham and I will do so early next week.

5. You ought to know for your own personal information that a number of members of the Cabinet thought they should give the Prime Minister a present to mark the occasion. Mr Ridley has therefore done a watercolour of No 10 and this is being framed and will be presented to the Prime Minister at the Carlton Club.

6. Lord Whitelaw has asked me to get in touch with him again next week once I have spoken to Bernard. If there are any further details you would like or points that occur to you, perhaps you could let me know.

MJB

M J ELAND
15 January 1988

GR - pro add to
file

• Jessa

I have "Worked out"
Evening of 26 Jan. for
the special Dinner to
P.M. and have kept
Your memo for my
engagements file

D 14/11

File Pmm

MR. THATCHER

As you know, Lord Whitelaw has suggested that he and the rest of the Cabinet give a dinner in honour of the Prime Minister in the New Year. Could you please block out the evening of Tuesday 26 January for this.

Tessa Gaisman

12 November 1987



PRIVY COUNCIL OFFICE
WHITEHALL, LONDON SW1A 2AT

Note to BT

11 November 1987

Dear Tessa

I am writing to confirm Tuesday 26 January 1988 as the date the Cabinet will entertain the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher to a dinner to mark the occasion of the Prime Minister becoming the longest serving Prime Minister this century. For security reasons details of the venue will not be announced until nearer the time and I should be grateful if knowledge of the dinner could be kept on a need to know basis.

I am copying this letter to the diary secretaries to members of the Cabinet, Chief Whip Commons and the Paymaster General.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Eric Wilson'.

ERIC R WILSON

Tessa Gaisman
Diary Secretary
10 Downing Street



File
Pm
30

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

29 October 1987

Tessa
Any progress yet?
JL 12/11

The Prime Minister has seen Lord Whitelaw's minute of yesterday in which he suggests that the Cabinet should entertain herself and Mr. Thatcher to a dinner to mark the occasion of her becoming the longest serving Prime Minister in this century.

The Prime Minister has said that this suggestion by the Lord President is warmly appreciated. She and Mr. Thatcher would be very happy to accept.

Could I suggest that you should now be in touch with Tessa Gaisman here to arrange a suitable date. No doubt you will also want to talk to Bernard Ingham, in due course, about any publicity for this occasion.

N. L. Wicks

Mike Eland, Esq.,
Lord President's Office.

CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

to



PRIME MINISTER

1
One Minute
This looks a very nice occasion. Agree I should find a suitable date?

N.C.W.
28.10

It has come to the notice of the Cabinet that on the 3rd January you will become the longest serving Prime Minister in this century. I have consulted my Cabinet colleagues and they all agree enthusiastically that we should mark this occasion by entertaining you and Denis to a dinner. I suggested that this dinner should be held after the return of Parliament from the Christmas Recess. If you are agreeable, I will arrange to have some dates discussed with your office. It would give us all the very greatest pleasure if you were prepared to accept. We really do want to honour this great historical occasion.

This is warmly appreciated
We should be very happy to accept. not
Lillie

Privy Council Office
28 October 1987