

PRIME MINISTER

cc Mr Ingham

Mr Whittingdale

Mr Hamilton

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TEN YEARS AS PRIME MINISTER

I understand that you are already receiving invitations to events to celebrate your 10th Anniversary in office in May 1989. Another has just arrived from Lord Whitelaw in which he invites you, on behalf of the General Committee of the Carlton Club, to a reception in your honour in May 1989 to celebrate your 10th Anniversary in office. His letter is attached. I am sure that you will be receiving many more such invitations, and it seems worthwhile to take a general view on your reaction to such invitations now.

There are two broad possibilities:

- (i) accept some and decline others;
- (ii) accept none on the grounds that you would not wish to anticipate the anniversary, but say you will bear in mind all the invitations when the 10th Anniversary has actually been achieved. This was very much your approach with the 3 January record when you became the longest serving Prime Minister this century.

Bernard would, of course, give you advice much nearer the time on how best to mark the day of the anniversary.

Would you like to talk about this?

N L WICKS

26 February 1988

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From: The Rt. Hon. Viscount Whitelaw, C.H., M.C.



HOUSE OF LORDS
LONDON SW1A 0PW

25 February 1988

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

My dear Margaret

The General Committee of the Carlton Club have instructed me to write to you and invite you to a reception in your honour in May 1989 to celebrate your tenth anniversary in office. I do apologise for writing so long in advance but they are so fearful that your diary will be fully booked up. If you are prepared to accept, perhaps you would ask your diary secretary to get in touch with me or with the Secretary of the Club and try to fix some suitable dates. It would need to be midweek and not close to a Bank Holiday. I know that you would probably like to trade this off against the normal Eve of the Opening of Parliament Reception either this year or next year. Frankly I doubt if I can deliver that but they always would be at your command! *or might to be!*

*Yours truly
V. Whitelaw*

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP