

Office



10 DOWNING STREET

PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

8th November, 1984

Dear Tom

You will be aware that sometime ago, when Michael Webb was still in the office here and when he was involved in discussions at Central Office about computers, a decision was taken to accept an offer of ICL to give the Political Office at No. 10 a free loan of their latest personal computer. The purpose of this note is to bring you up to date very briefly on the latest developments.

The computer has been a disaster. Despite strenuous efforts by ICL we have barely had more than two days uninterrupted work from it without breakdown.

I am not totally disappointed. The computer should never have been installed. It is far too ambitious for our needs: of its many facilities, we only needed the word processing programme.

There is a silver-lining. Roger Martin has now agreed that ICL will give us on free loan one or more word processors. Once we have established that these meet our requirements, I intend to accept the offer. This would give us what we want and save the Party a lot of money (this would never have been possible had not ICL tried originally to give us the computer, no doubt for their own ultimate marketing purposes, and then felt guilty after its lack of success).

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It is important that ICL do not receive adverse publicity from this change of equipment and I have instructed Nigel Hawkins and his office that they must make no mutterings about this in Central Office or elsewhere. Roger Martin and ICL have been extremely helpful and even more so now.

*Yours  
Stephen*

STEPHEN SHERBOURNE

The Chairman of the Party

cc. Hal Miller, Esq MP