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File on Eastbourne file

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

26 July, 1984

Although you very kindly said not to reply to your letter, the Prime Minister particularly wanted me to write and thank you for taking the trouble to write as you did and for your encouragement. Mrs. Thatcher is grateful to you and your wife and is looking forward to her visit to Eastbourne in November. Her programme for that visit has not yet been finalised, but as her diary for the period is very overcrowded, I rather suspect that she will not have time to attend the reception, but will simply attend the Conference.

With best wishes.

Mrs. Caroline Ryder

Patrick Stewart-Blacker, Esq.

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*M. W. Stephens*

BY APPOINTMENT  
HERALDIC WOOD CARVERS TO THE STANDING COUNCIL OF SCOTTISH CHIEFS.



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20th July, 1984

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, P.C., M.P.,  
The Prime Minister,  
House of Commons,  
London SW1A.

*My dear Prime Minister,*

I am prompted to write you to thank you at long last for coming out personally against the "enemy at home".

I would just like you to know that you have the fullest support of most people I know up here, but for some time, people like myself who run their own show, which is most of us in this area, I personally for some time have been worried about the possibility of giving down to that wretched blackmailer.

From the onset of your leadership of the country, people like myself have accepted the extremely stiff dose of medicine which has been dished out so many times that it hurt very badly, and in the case of my firm in 1979 hit us very badly when the value of the pound was far too high against the dollar and in consequence of that and a world recession, we virtually lost our main markets, that is those on the other side of the Atlantic. During the difficult years that followed, I have consistently taken the view that your treatment was right, although frankly at times I could have seen you in hell, but your inspiration has led us through all this and we are now seeing a very sunny light at the end of the tunnel. However, during this period, I have consistently fought my accountants and at times my banker against putting any of my very highly qualified craftsmen on short time, let alone paying them off. This at times seemed like suicide as our overdraft has doubled in the bank and at times, the business finds it difficult to service it, let alone reduce it. However, I feel that at long last, we are through the worst and that now more than ever, we are recognised as probably the best firm of our kind throughout the world. This is also reflected in the attitude of both my bank and the accountants that they now take the view in hindsight that I was right and seem to have a certain amount of admiration for the courage that both my wife and I had in laying our whole heritage on the line.

This is why it is imperative that no matter what hardship has to lie ahead of us, these wretched blackmailing communists have got to be stopped once and for all and let private industry bail the country out of its mess in peace.

Please do not bother to answer this letter as I know you have far better things to do. As a matter of interest, we are looking forward to seeing you at Eastbourne on Sunday, 4th November when you will be addressing the C.B.I. Whilst I know it will be a busy time for you, if you are able to be at the reception, my firm has a stand displaying its work pretty well by the entrance and it may be of interest to you in passing to glance at some of our extremely intricate work.

Once/

Patrick Stewart-Blacker Anne Stewart-Blacker

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Once again, I beseech you not to give down. You do have most people behind you and we certainly must have your type of leadership for at least another fifteen years. My wife and I send this letter to you with great humility and a very fond personal affection.

Yours Sincerely

Patrick Stewart Blacker