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General Secretary:
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cc 10
Patrons:
Her Majesty the Queen
Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth
the Queen Mother
Her Royal Highness
the Princess Margaret
Countess of Snowdon

12 April 1989

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
10 Downing Street
London SW1

Dear Prime Minister,

Throughout last week, the Royal College of Nursing held its Annual Congress in Blackpool. A number of major and significant matters have been discussed.

I understand that decisions are to be made shortly about the composition of the NHS Policy board, and since this is such an urgent matter Congress asked me to write to you.

It would seem that the Government is anxious to appoint people with business and commercial experience to the proposed Policy Board, but is reluctant to include the Chief Nursing or Chief Medical Officer of the Department of Health.

Clearly the Policy Board will play a crucial role in the further development of the National Health Service. Whilst there may be advantages in having commercial and business experience, it is difficult to understand the rationale for excluding nursing and medical advice. The consideration and implementation of any policy will be dependent on health care professionals. The contribution which they will make is invaluable and the work of the Policy Board will be impoverished if that contribution at this level of discussion is precluded.

I would ask you to consider this most carefully. I have already written to the Secretary of State and have discussed the matter with him: I shall be grateful if you will give it your urgent consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Trevor Clay

Trevor Clay
General Secretary



ВУМ
7.11.19