

**IN THE MATTER OF THE LEVESON INQUIRY INTO THE CULTURE, PRACTICES
AND ETHICS OF THE PRESS**

EXHIBIT SJM3 TO THE WITNESS STATEMENT

OF SIR JOHN MAJOR KG, CH, PC

J. Heywood
D. Stagg
G. MacNaughton

3 August 1993

PRIME MINISTER

Alex / Gus o.v.

For Sec + Cllr. still away. **RUPERT MURDOCH**

Home Sec., alas, has accepted. I have hinted that he might contract a diplomatic illness. We'll see.

sent to PM again with amended letter.
✓ For / See amended letter. / S.

RMYL. 23/iii

I attach alternative draft replies, together with the invitation and the earlier papers relating to Rupert Murdoch's invitation to the "special celebration" on 1 September.

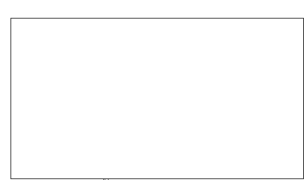
I have discovered that the celebration is to do with launching new Sky TV channels.

One draft reply contains an extra sentence suggesting a meeting at some future occasion to discuss the editorial lines taken by his newspapers. You can be fairly sure that Mr Murdoch spends very little time reading his own papers and would be quite dismayed by some of their contents.

Do you want me to discourage other Cabinet members from attending the launch?

Yes

X



A T O'DONNELL

Rod o/r
Grateful if you could ring Stephen Smith + Owen Bader or whoever in Chancellor's office. Then please write to whoever of you, Gillian or Mark know Tom MacNaughton best please ring her. No need to do this Cabinet minutes
Alex 2078

Alex
Re 'X' &
I think Gus mentioned this to you, and you were going to get the word around
Julia 11/1

*Mr. Rupert Murdoch,
Chairman & Chief Executive of The News Corporation
requests the pleasure of the company of*

Prime Minister & Mrs Major

*at a special celebration
on Wednesday, September 1, 1993.
The Banqueting House, Whitehall Palace, London.*

*R.S.V.P.
By reply card*

*Dinner 8.00 for 8.30 pm.
Black Tie
Carriages at midnight*

Please bring this invitation with you.