

Dear Mrs. Howe,

On behalf of your grateful guests I would like to thank you sincerely for your kind invitation to this pleasant meal and gathering, and for the friendly words of welcome with which you have received us.

We are all very happy to be present to share with our spouses this important occasion - the Annual meeting of the EDU and the foundation of the International Democrat Union. And your friendly hospitality certainly has made the event even more memorable.

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The relationship between our countries is based on a profound feeling of shared cultural inheritance and history. Many are the links that tie us together. But no other forms of contact can replace the personal friendship which is established and strengthened on occasions like this.

The present meeting follows in the wake of important developments on the European political scene. Being in London it is only natural to make special mention of the resounding election victory of the Conservative Party. We wish you all possible success in the task ahead of you.

We will bring with us from this meeting wonderful memories of friendship, from a beautiful city and a great country.

With renewed thanks for your hospitality, I propose a toast to the prosperity and happiness of the people of the United Kingdom.