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Following the recent debate about the thalidomide children there is reason to believe that the Government would be responsive to an all-Party approach on the question of allowances and social services for all disabled children, and perhaps disabled adults too.

Would you be prepared to sign the enclosed letter? If so, I would be grateful if you could return it to me at the above address. For background information I enclose a recent Times article and also a list of the people to whom, in the first instance, this invitation is being sent. The object is to include a cross-section of those whose professional or voluntary work puts them in touch with the needs of disabled children. Please suggest others to whom an invitation to sign the letter might be sent, if names occur to you.

I propose that the letter should be sent on behalf only of the signatories, and not under the auspices of any organisation. The names of those signing the letter to the Prime Minister will be listed alphabetically. Unless you have an alternative suggestion I would propose that the letter be sent from my private address under the heading ["Ad Hoc Committee on] Allowances and Social Services for Disabled Children".

I very much look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Townsend