

This vision applies to everything about our national life and our relationships with the world. I am sorry if it looks a forbidding lot of text but it will give you a good overview of the burden of my message if you can get through it.

20 Domestic policy issues.

Budgets

We have a huge national debt of £1,148 billion hanging over us. We should pay it off if we are to have credibility in the world. To get this huge sum into perspective let me say that our two new aircraft carriers cost about £2 billion each so our national debt would pay for nearly 600 new super aircraft carriers! Or you can picture it as costing £20,000 for every man, woman and child in the UK. In addition, we have a personal debt (including mortgages) of around £1,300 billion. We are living beyond our means. Australia is on course to pay off its national debt in 2006. Why shouldn't we?

Industry

We need to earn our way in the world by industry selling goods and services that the world really needs to make it a better place. We should not just sell things to satisfy markets generated by advertising or by arming people who ought to settle their differences in cheaper wiser ways. We need to develop good products generated by Research and Development. But R and D spending is going declining. Our children avoid maths, physics, chemistry and languages which are so necessary for industry to thrive. We even lack industry recruits who can read and write properly. We need everybody to see the value of their main job in the big picture or to change to a job that they can see the point of.

Crime

Our prisons are nearly full. We have more people in prison per head of population than almost anywhere else in western Europe. There is much too much criminality. There may be a modest improvement lately but nobody doubts that the level of criminality is hugely more than it was, say, 50 years ago. Crime is expensive, demoralising and a symptom of our national aimlessness. Most people in prison have unhappy lives with family problems and little educational achievement. Others, organised criminals, have fed on the misery of others in foreign lands. The vision which I describe is the answer to both sorts of criminality.

Education

Education will succeed when young people want to learn and are happy at home. If they see something great going on in the adult world around them, they will be quick to catch the vision and eager to get a good education to enable them to be happy and useful in life. When they grow up, satisfying jobs will make them stable people with a

better chance of making a happy, stable home for their own children and of being an inspiration to them.

Health

You can rest assured that, if you fall ill, we'll all club together to pay the cost of getting you well again, if it's humanly possible, or to look after you if it's not. This precious founding principle of the National Health Service binds us together as a nation. It's a common good. You are one of us. We are in it together. The way to run a health service is to work out the health needs of the nation and pay for the service out of public funds. Simple! Keep it simple; no internal market, no management consultants' fees. Just a few administrators, experienced at operating this simple system. Furthermore, a purposeful nation will be happier and healthier. We will want to honour our own bodies and keep as healthy as we can. We won't feel the need for so many tranquillisers or so much comfort food or alcohol, tobacco, drugs or illicit sex. We'll want to keep healthy to be happy and useful and so as not to use up more NHS funds than we need to.

Private Finance Initiatives (PFI).

PFI means that the government contracts with a private consortium to design and build a facility such as a school or hospital and to run it for, usually, 30 years. The private capital used has to be paid for at the more expensive commercial rates and it is all commercially secret. The government says it delivers public works on time and on budget, as opposed to conventional procurement which is frustrated by time and cost over-runs. But I think there must be ways to tighten up on such inefficiencies without incurring the expense of PFI. People who don't like PFI see it as a way to get vote-winning popular public services, cost-free for the moment, but with future generations being landed with more expense in the long run. If we can't afford such buildings we should get by until we can and work hard so we earn enough as a country to be able to pay for them up front.

Transport

We need an imaginatively planned transport system that lets the nation do its business. A nation that is earning its way in the world and getting an important job done needs an efficient, economical transport system for people and freight. Travelling from Manchester to London on standard class rail now costs a prohibitive £202 return if you buy a ticket on the day of travel. So people go by car. But now the government plans to deter car use by punitively pricing journeys at up to £1.34 per mile by means of a chip in your car. Many of us do actually need to be able to get around to get our business done. Some people

need to travel for very good reasons. We need plans for positive transport alternatives not punitive pricing which forces us to drive home late and miss our children's bed-time. These just make business and social life more expensive and more stressful. We need a fast, safe, cheap network designed and operated by skilled engineers of which we currently have too few. We need young people to catch the vision and to get stuck into studying the maths and physics so that they can become the engineers we need. Public ownership of rail and buses and re-regulation would allow us to invest what it takes to get things moving. We can't really invest what the system needs if the profit goes to private companies which are often based overseas.

Debt

Personal debt has risen to dangerous levels. Bankruptcies are at an all time high. Young people are encouraged to start adult life with a long-term debt hanging over their heads. The government is promoting drinking, gambling and the lottery. It is a dangerous situation that we must rein in on.

Pensions and social protection. We need a level of standard old age pension which lets older people feel honoured and not cast aside. It may be necessary for people to work longer for it but that doesn't matter so much if the jobs people do are pleasant and keep them happily in circulation among friendly colleagues. Some 2.7 million are on some £12 billion worth of incapacity benefit. Sweden has a generous social welfare system but it is made possible because people generally draw on it only if they really need it. Feeling committed together to working for a shared national vision will help us get all this into perspective. People on benefits will recognise a public responsibility to get off benefits as soon as they can because they will know they are needed and they won't want to cost the public purse more than absolutely necessary. They will leave more in the kitty to support others in need.

Defence

I want us to promote wholesome values and healthy relationships in the world. This will win us many friends but it will also incur the fury of those who see their illicit power base being threatened by this Pax Britannica. That is why we need armed forces. Mostly our vision should be spread abroad by friendly personal relationships and fair trade. But sometimes our military capability will be needed. So we need our forces to have enough personnel and the right kit to do the job without being over-stretched. And recruits need to be well educated and physically and psychologically fit for the work, damaged by broken relationships and unhealthy lifestyles back at home. And they should enjoy the admiring support of the community they represent.

Asylum

We must treat fairly the people who flee to our shores for protection from tyranny. We need a fair, intelligent means of deciding each case. The Home Office used to have teams to decide applicants' cases who built up an expert specialist knowledge of each of the situations from which most of the asylum seekers had fled. This system has broken down. Cases are now dealt with by officials who know little about the world from which a specific asylum seeker has fled. This ignorance and the pressure to expel a given quota of these people creates a culture hostile to the applicant and fosters many injustices in the country to which these poor people have fled seeking justice and protection. Probably they should be allowed to work and earn money to live on while they wait for their case to be judged.

Leadership

The style of public leadership is of vital importance to setting the right tone in our national life. If elected I would draw a salary equal to the national average wage, which is now about £25,000. I would not draw an MP's entitlement of £59,000 since I believe representatives should be representative of the people they represent. Leaders should be inspired by a public service ethos and should live at roughly on the same level economically as the people they serve and lead. They should not be an elite class. Paying leaders of *quangos* and government agencies hugely inflated salaries means that they cannot ask members of the public to make sacrifices for the common good. Leadership should not be by overbearing monitoring and goal setting to "drive up standards". Standards will rise when people feel appreciated and can aspire to ideals of leadership upheld by the lives of their leaders. They will want to follow their example of diligent public service. Too much monitoring and compulsion is counterproductive and leads to stress and bitterness.

Farms

I am taking steps to understand the tensions in farming and fishing that appear to threaten livelihoods and the security of our food supplies and fish stocks. I suspect that the supermarkets and their suppliers, efficient as they are in many ways, sometimes drive a hard bargain bordering on ruthlessness. I have more to learn and welcome comment.

Europe

I want Europe to succeed in making a fair and prosperous real community for its citizens and in being a good neighbour in the world. Many nations want to join the EU. The goal of membership has helped heal the sufferings of eastern and south-eastern Europe. We need to ensure that material wealth is not our only goal. If

it is then the Union will not survive hard times when unity is no longer considered worthwhile. The EU will only endure if a communal spirit unites us in a loyalty that will survive the hard times as it has the good.

Ethics

We should resist euthanasia and promote palliative care. We should curb abortion and divorce and encourage people to wait until they are married before having sex. Marriage should be encouraged and nurtured as the norm whilst recognising the honour of remaining single. Personally I cannot see that same-sex civil partnerships fit with the Bible. This is a difficult issue for some but the foundation of our civilisation is the Christian gospel and it should remain so.

Housing

This is a crucial area because having a safe and sound home is so vital to human wellbeing and because paying for accommodation dominates so many people's lives and adds to stress and exhaustion. High housing costs dominate many people's lives and make young mothers have to leave their children to go out to work. The home should be a place for the family to thrive in not a cause of debilitating debt.

Ecology

Ecology matters. We need to care about our environment and not pollute it or exhaust our resources leaving nothing to our children. At the same time being a good influence in the world demands that we live an efficient life and travel when we need to and export to earn our living in the world. So environmental concerns need always to be weighed up alongside the necessary costs of a sufficient economy. We also need to be careful about food and energy security and not leave ourselves at the mercy of suppliers who violate human rights. We must not sacrifice our principles for an easy life.

Mayors

In other words Local Government. There has long been resentment and distrust between central and local government. If we had a unifying sense of national purpose that all feel part of, then this tension could be overcome. Each local community could be allowed more leeway in shouldering its responsibilities. Despite the government's recent polls on regional assemblies being rejected, we probably do need English regions larger than the present counties in order to plan for development. But "quangoes" of un-elected and highly paid officials are not transparent enough. France, Germany, Sweden, the US, Canada and Australia all have administrative units larger than those in England. A greater sense of mutual trust is needed to allow the centre, regions and counties to work together efficiently.

Judges

The government plans to remove a great deal of the independence of the judiciary. A country with disenfranchised suspicious citizens can only be governed by a powerful central government. A nation of citizens sharing a common aim can afford to allow power to be shared amongst various seats of authority such as Ministers, Parliament and the courts. It is dangerous to centralise power in the hands of the government executive. A nation with a unifying purpose can be governed by consensus rather than by such heavy-handed centralising of power. The appointment of judges and many aspects of their work and of sentencing are being taken over by servant of the executive. ID cards and an identity database can be tools of oppression if there is no other authority to hold the executive in check. We need the checks and balances, which our constitution has so far enshrined and which are being threatened. A free society wins the allegiance of its subjects by the rightness of its vision and removes the sea of support for those who would overthrow it. In Mao's terms, the fish would have less water to swim in. Stella Rimington ex head of MI5 didn't think ID cards would be much help in combating terrorism. Vague laws on religious hatred and other expressions of opinion risk bringing the law into disrepute and criminalising valuable citizens.

Parties

I don't hear any other party coming out clearly with the vision and policies which I have laid out above. They can't be neatly categorised as left wing or right wing. Individual items coincide with some of the claims of other parties. But I present a bigger challenge than I hear coming from the other parties. Of course, people may well feel they prefer to opt for an easier life. If we do the world will go sour on us, especially because we now have a strident Iran to face up to. Any decision to abandon our principles in favour of an easy life will disappoint us. There are challenges ahead. Only a nation united behind a bold and honest vision will preserve peace on earth. No current major party offers an electoral alternative to excessive privatisation. The main parties favour taking on more public debt by investing what we don't have in public services and PFI contracts. We are incurring extra tax liabilities that our children will have to pay their way out of. We are waiting to see what the Liberal Democrats will stand for after their leadership contest. Single issue parties say important things about their single issue but don't offer a comprehensive national vision. Two Christian parties (Christian Peoples Alliance and Operation Christian Vote) have important things to say about poverty relief, life ethics and family issues. I am saying something different. They have been good to me

but my vision speaks more profoundly on the direction and inspiration of our national life.

International Affairs

Trade

World trade needs to thrive but to do so on a fair basis. We should not force poor countries to open their markets to foreign companies to buy up the ownership of their assets or the right to dominate essential services such as water or healthcare. World trade rules that allow poorer countries to earn an honest living in the world will be good for our own economy as well because there will soon be more countries that are becoming rich enough to buy our goods and services at a fair market price.

Development

We are already committed to achieving the UN Millennium Development Goals by 2015 to:

- Halve the number of people in absolute poverty.
- Halve the number of people without clean water.
- Reduce the death of under 5s by two thirds.
- Reduce maternal mortality by three quarters.
- Universal primary education.

... And so on.

These will not come easily but we should be seen to be serious and determined in the face of the considerable economic and political obstacles.

Islamism

A western culture that has lost its moral bearings has really no defence against determined attempts by people willing to sacrifice their own lives to see another worldview prevail. Our essential culture of Christendom is stable, durable and worth dying to defend. We are however, in a compromised position in our contemporary western culture. Christendom has become corrupted by vices which dishonour us and weaken our ability to defend ourselves. Much of our decadent behaviour offends Muslims. I refer to pornography, alcohol, drugs, illicit sex and usury. Let us make sure that we are not abusing our economic and political power to be greedy at others' expense. It is worth dying for the rule of law and religious liberty and freedom of speech. It isn't worth dying just for the privilege of going out to get drunk on a Saturday night.

China

We should be as friendly to China but we should stand firmly by our principles and not acquiesce with violations of human rights and political and civil rights. We should not collaborate with China militarily until they observe international norms in these areas and yet we are doing so by their membership of the Galileo satellite programme which is of military significance. The pressures to bow to China's commercial prowess are very

great but we should not abandon our morals. China also has huge international influence at present buying up resources in Africa and oil in the Middle East. And China has a key part to play in protecting the repressive Burmese regime and Maoists have taken over most of India.

Africa

More important than aid for Africa is African governments' observance of human and political rights and probity. Yet much chaos reigns in Africa. There is much anger against former colonial rulers but this covers over abuses. We must challenge African tyrants but must make sure that we too are behaving ourselves. I say this because it is an injustice to criticise tyrants only to come and pillage their land by buying up the best of their resources. Ideally we have a global ethic which applies equally to Africans and to us. We should both be upright in our dealings. We must care about the grievous situations in Sudan, the Horn, Uganda, Nigeria, Ivory Coast, Congo and Zimbabwe, conducting ourselves energetically and morally without being deterred by accusations of colonialism.

Nuclear non-proliferation

We are rightly concerned that nuclear weapons should not get into irresponsible hands or be used against our people, civilisation and values. Fortunately Mohammed El Baradei and the UN agency the IAEA work hard at this. We must be diligent to prevent malicious forces using nuclear weapons against our civilisation and values. International consensus for non-proliferation can only hold if everybody sees that the values we promote and defend are fair (even if a few don't admit it at the moment). Military force may be needed in the final analysis but world peace will only be achieved by winning hearts and minds and this applies to WMD as much as it does to lower scale conflict.

Slavery and trafficking

These crimes thrive in poverty and chaos. Because of family poverty young women seek jobs that purport to be in waitressing only to find they have been tricked into prostitution. .. or to take farm jobs to find themselves in some such situation as Morecombe Bay with the tide coming in. Eradication such trade and crime requires efficient policing but the social reason for it can only be addressed by ending the poverty from which people flee. Again this is the kind of far sighted agenda we should embrace as a nation.

Tyranny

We must take a firm stand in favour of fair conditions of life for people who suffer under unjust rulers who enrich themselves at the expense of their people and who violate human rights and the rights of minorities. There is a price to pay for such a stand. We may lose contracts to

others bidders who have fewer scruples.
Diplomacy cost quite a lot and military action is very costly in money and lives.

UN

We need to remain active members of the UN and its allied organisations such as the World health Organisation. Particularly we need a UN that really works and is efficient and honest. This will always be difficult and messy because it means keeping all five Permanent (veto holding) Members of the Security Council on side. That is a crucial problem which we must keep trying to resolve and which has rendered the UN of limited value over the years. There should be less delay and more focus in the work of the UN Committee on Human Rights and tyrannical regimes should be excluded from chairing the meetings.

Countries

of the world with some comments to be added as soon as I can. There will be recommended actions appropriate to several of these countries.

Morocco
Algeria
Tunisia
Libya
Egypt
Mauritania
Mali
Niger
Chad
Sudan
Senegal
Gambia
Guinea Bissau
Guinea
Sierra Leone
Liberia
Ivory Coast
Burkina Faso
Ghana
Togo
Benin
Nigeria
Cameroon
Equatorial Guinea
Gabon
Congo
Congo Democ Rep
Rwanda
Burundi
Eritrea
Ethiopia
Djibouti
Somalia
Kenya
Uganda
Tanzania
Angola

Namibia
Botswana
South Africa
Lesotho
Swaziland
Zambia
Zimbabwe
Malawi
Mozambique
Madagascar
Comoros
Seychelles
Mauritius
Sao Tome
Cape Verde
Belgium
Netherlands
Luxembourg
France
Germany
Italy
UK
Ireland
Denmark
Sweden
Finland
Austria
Spain
Portugal
Greece
Estonia
Latvia
Lithuania
Poland
Czech Republic
Slovakia
Hungary
Slovenia
Malta
Cyprus
Romania
Bulgaria
Croatia
Macedonia FYR
Turkey
Norway
Iceland
Switzerland
Andorra
Monaco
Liechtenstein
San Marino
Vatican
Bosnia/ Herzegovina
Serbia/ Montenegro
Albania
Belarus
Russia
Ukraine
Moldova
Georgia
Armenia
Azerbaijan

Turkmenistan
Uzbekistan
Tajikistan
Kazakhstan
Kirgizstan
Mongolia
Syria
Lebanon
Israel / Palestine
Jordan
Iraq
Iran
Saudi Arabia
Kuwait
Bahrain
Qatar
UAE
Oman
Yemen
Afghanistan
Pakistan
India
Bangladesh
Nepal
Bhutan
Maldives
Sri Lanka
Burma (Myanmar)
Thailand
Malaysia
Singapore
Brunei
Indonesia
East Timor
Philippines
Laos
Cambodia
Vietnam
China
Taiwan
Japan
Korea Rep
Korea People's Republic
Australia
New Zealand
Palau
Marianas Islands
Micronesia
Marshall Islands
Papua New Guinea
Nauru
Solomon Islands
Vanuatu
New Caledonia Fr
Fiji
Tonga
Samoa
Wallis and Fortuna Fr
Kiribati
Tekelau NZ
Cook Islands NZ
Polynesia Fr
Pitcairn UK

USA
Canada
Mexico
Guatemala
Belize
El Salvador
Honduras
Nicaragua
Costa Rica
Panama
Colombia
Ecuador
Peru
Bolivia
Chile
Argentina
Uruguay
Paraguay
Brazil
Venezuela
Guyana
Surinam
Guyane Fr
Cuba
Cayman UK
Jamaica
Haiti
Dominican Republic
Puerto Rico US
Virgin Islands US
British Virgin Islands
Antigua
Anguila and Barbuda
San Maarten NL
Guadaloupe Fr
Dominica
Martinique Fr
St Lucia
St Vincent and the Grenadines
Grenada
Barbados
Trinidad and Tobago
Curacao, Aruba and Bonaire NL
Turks and Caicos UK
Bahamas
Bermuda UK