



SEALED WITH A KISS: Conservative Party leader David Cameron kisses his wife Samantha after his keynote speech during the Conservative Party conference yesterday

A great husband – but is Cameron a great leader?

DAVID CAMERON began his Conservative Party conference speech yesterday with a heartfelt tribute to his wife Samantha – but ended it with observers questioning whether he is yet equipped to lead the country.

Mr Cameron – almost universally seen as the Prime Minister-in-waiting – thanked his wife Samantha for sustaining him after the death of their son Ivan.

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The Tory leader told delegates at the party's conference in Manchester that Ivan's death earlier this year had caused him to reconsider his political future.

"You ask yourself, do I really want to do this?" he said. "I know what sustains me the most; she is sitting right there."

In an occasionally unconvincing speech, Mr Cameron insisted he was ready to be "tested" as Prime Minister, and defended the party's decision to set out £23bn of spending cuts months before the general election.

He promised a safer, more prosperous Britain governed by a

much smaller state, saying: "I know that today there aren't many reasons to be cheerful. But there are reasons to believe."

"Yes, it will be a steep climb. But the view from the summit will be worth it."

There was applause for his attack on high levels of deprivation and rising unemployment, which had been caused "not [by] the wicked Tories, but you, Labour."

You're the ones who did this to our society."

But Welsh Secretary Peter Hain said last night: "The fact remains that George Osborne has set out a range of savage cuts in public spending. If we followed the Tory course, the recovery would be choked off and we would plunge into an economic depression."

more Reports: pages 6&7

INSIDE



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