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PRIME MINISTER

You have agreed to give a 20-minute interview to Peter Allen, Political Editor of IRN, on economic subjects for networking on Sunday morning, with transcript to the Lobby to help get over the message. 

The timing, rearranged from last Friday, is opportune following the public expenditure review and the Chancellor's statement on Monday.

Although the "Analysis" programme was substantially concerned with the economy, we are here aiming at a different audience - the commercial radio listener on a Sunday morning. The interview will, moreover, be much more angled to news and current events than Michael Charlton and it will be desirable to give fairly short, pointed answers so that you make an impact.

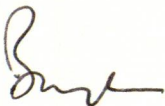
I have talked to Peter Allen and he wants broadly to follow the pattern set out below, though possibly bringing in this week's argument over national insurance contributions (which could usefully be put in perspective) and the firemen's dispute:

- Have you been deflected from your aim of lower taxes and public expenditure?
- What prospect is there of balancing the nation's books longer term?
- What are your views on the alternative strategies being canvassed - for example, Mr. Healey, who would allow the PSBR to rise massively while calling for a 4 per cent cut in MLR?
- Is permanent damage being done to industry and the economy - and, more especially, to particular areas such as textiles?

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- When can we look forward to the renaissance of industry and where will it happen?
- How do you view the winter ahead?
- What have you to say about the allegations that you don't care about unemployment?
- What effect do you think the lower interest rate will have?
- What hope do you hold out for people for an improvement in the economy?
- Are Ministers losing their nerve and, reference Sir Harold Wilson, will you last the course?

We are having a briefing at 3.15 p.m. and, in view of this, I doubt whether I need burden you with briefing overnight.



B. INGHAM

27 November, 1980

NOTE

I have now confirmed with Peter Thornton
of IRN that the new date for the interview
will be Friday, 28 November at 3.30 p.m.

S. WALMSLEY

20 November, 1980

PRIME MINISTER

IRN

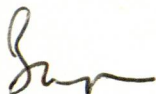
You were to have given Peter Allen, IRN, an interview tomorrow (Friday) evening for networking on Sunday morning, with transcript to Lobby. The subject: the economy.

I have postponed the engagement because you will simply not be able to do a satisfactory job, given the Chancellor's statement next week. I hope you agree.

We have rearranged this interview several times and it seems almost fated not to take place. However, in postponing it this time, I have promised to do my utmost to secure an interview for them for broadcast next weekend. You have, of course, a BBC 'Analysis' interview, helpfully next Wednesday, but this will reach a different audience.

Caroline is trying to fix a slot for next week and this should be possible on Friday.

I hope you are content?



Yes mb.

B. INGHAM

20 November, 1980