

KMS .

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEWS

You have a long-standing interview with Glyn Mathias of ITN at 4.30 pm today. In view of the current situation you have agreed to a further short interview with BBC TV immediately after.

The interviews are now sure to be devoted entirely to today's resignations and the developments over the Falklands.

You will be asked about the consequences for the future of your Government: in particular the current reverse may be set against the improving position in the domestic economy.

You will be asked about the immediate problem of reconstructing your Government. The names of Mr Pym and Mr Rippon have been prominent among the news gossip. There is also a story around that Mr Heath is returning early from a visit to China.

You are of course likely to be asked for personal reaction to Lord Carrington's resignation.

And you will be asked about the immediately consequences for the Falklands situation of an entirely new team at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office: specifically, who is in charge during the inter regnum?

On the Falklands issue itself you may be pressed further about deployment plans, position of nuclear submarines, timing of the fleet's arrival in Falkland waters etc. They may try it on but would not expect you to do more than indicate that we should avoid at all costs giving away information to our adversaries and, in extremis, putting in jeopardy the lives of our own people.

The interviewers will probably seek Prime Ministerial endorsement for the tough line taken by Mr Nott yesterday on Weekend World

when he made clear that force would be used if necessary. Anything short of total commitment on that score or indeed on the question of British sovereignty would be commented on.

You may be asked about alternative solutions such as grants to re-settle the Falkland Islanders which you will want to deal with robustly.

The question of diplomatic pressures may be raised and, in particular, what help we might expect from our American allies. Press reaction in the US has been strongly pro-British. In view of Mr Silkin's remarks, you may be asked about the need for Labour Party support as a pre-condition for further action and whether you are consulting opposition leaders.

Finally, they may try to come back to the Government's alleged unpreparedness and its implications for our defence and foreign policies.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'B Mower', with a stylized, flowing script.

B MOWER  
5 April 1982