

PRIME MINISTER

"WORLD THIS WEEKEND"

As promised last evening I have had another word with Gordon Clough about his interview with you on Sunday. He confirmed that the substance of the attached minute, which you saw last night, still stands.

His only additional thought was that looking back on his interview with you at Chequers at this time last year, he discussed Northern Ireland. Briefing on the subject is included in the attached material. It is, however, by no means certain that Gordon Clough will raise this issue because it is not very topical - unlike last year - and he is proposing only a 20 minute interview this year compared with the 25 minutes last year.

So far as order of approach is concerned he suggests:

Gibraltar (unless the whole subject is played out by Sunday morning - as it may well be);

← Poland - NATO Ministerial on Monday, state of Western Alliance etc;

The Economy;

The state of British politics - SDP/Liberals, Labour in a mess, Conservatives two years from an election with 3 million unemployed.

I do not think I need add to my minute of last night which I attach at Annex I and which I commend again to you.

I shall be in the office as early as possible, given the weather, on Sunday morning but arrangements have been made for me to see you at 10.15 am for a briefing. I shall be at home all day tomorrow and Gordon Clough has promised to get in touch with me if he has any further ideas.

Content?

B. Ingham

B. INGHAM
8 January 1982

Annex 2: Michael Foot on same programme last week

*Annex 3 Your interview last January
MAF.*

PRIME MINISTER

ms

WORLD THIS WEEKEND

I shall be putting up a full brief tomorrow evening - to the extent that we need to supplement your Sunday Express/New Year's Eve broadcast material.

In the meantime, you might like to know I have had a word with your interviewer, Gordon Clough (who will have another word with me tomorrow when he has had a deeper think), and agreed that you will:

- (1) record at 11.00 am in the White Room; (it makes much more sense for them to set up elsewhere than in your study so that you can brief yourself uninterrupted);
- (2) have a chat with Gordon Clough at 10.50 am or thereabouts in your study on his approach and line of questions;
- (3) record for 20 minutes and strictly down to time; they are prepared to give you 20 minutes but have very little time to edit if you run over; this requires fairly crisp answers though radio is, of course, a more relaxed and expansive medium than television:

Subject to Saturday and Sunday events (and media coverage on those days):

- (4) the topics to be covered are:
 - Poland, on eve of NATO Ministerial; State of Western Alliance; what can West do?
 - EC - possibly a look back on the presidency but more importantly a look forward to 1982 and prospects for sorting out the Budget, CAP etc;
 - SDP/Liberals; Labour post-Bishops Stortford where peace is supposed to have broken out; state of Conservative Party; prospects for next General Election as you start the run in;

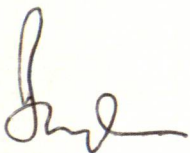
- possibly, as an extension of EC, its enlargement to include Spain, Portugal, especially if Gibraltar makes Spain topical;
- the economy - how are we doing? Will it all be worthwhile? What are prospects (probably bearing in mind wage claims and miners' ballot next week, though I have not mentioned pay to him); and
- what is 1982 going to be like - better or worse for Britain? What hopes and fears do you have?

All this is predictable and Gordon Clough is a reflective, intelligent and essentially constructive interviewer.

At this stage I think I need make only the following points about your objectives:

- to get over that, after nearly 3 years and unprecedented post-war economic problems, you are lively, confident, ebullient and of undimmed enthusiasm and determination;
- to put this over quietly and measuredly - ie. to take the fences steadily;
- to keep your replies crisp and to minimise interruptions which are off-putting;
- to demonstrate, if at all possible, your compassionate side in order to soften the image; and
- to leave listeners with the impression that you not only know what you are doing at home, but are operating confidently in foreign affairs.

Finally, what I think people will respond to at this stage is confidence and hope tempered by realism.



B. INGHAM

7 January 1982