

PRIME MINISTER

Mike - nos of immigrants last year

cc. Mr. Lankester

Mr. Sanders

Compared with previous year?

ITN INTERVIEW

I have now had a word with Alastair Burnet, who would like to revise, in the light of events, his areas of coverage to include, probably in this order:

- Brixton - any elucidation you can give on Mr. Whitelaw's statement, broadening out into connection, if any, with youth unemployment and the possibility of similar tragedies occurring elsewhere, especially bearing in mind Bristol;
- Northern Ireland - what to do about Sands? Is it a great success for the IRA? Does it advance what you and Mr. Haughey may have agreed on?  
{ (Do you care to comment on Mr. Haughey's apparent welcome for Sands' success, while saying it was not a vote for violence?). }
- Civil Service - Are you going to stick it out? Any moves on Polaris? Views on Easter disruption?
- The Economy - the difference of view as between some sections of the population, e.g. CBI, TUC and the Stock Market. Who is right? How do you see things developing? (N.B: You may well agree that it will be important to be cautious, though hopeful, against the background of earlier questions); and finally,
- Your feelings two years into the mission. Has your Government gone better in some respects and worse in others, and if so, which? How do you feel before you set off for India?

Mail - Kennedy

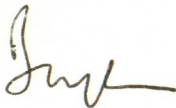
Miss.

F.I. leader.

We are preparing briefing on these matters.

We cannot possibly do the interview in the White Drawing Room because of your talks with the Romanian Prime Minister and, given that an Outside Broadcast Unit is being used, I simply do not believe we can suffer the potential disruption to the entire Romanian exercise. Consequently, I have arranged for the interview to be done in the lovely room at No. 12 where you have done a number of press conferences. Alastair Burnet is entirely happy with this.

Content?

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Ingham', written in dark ink.

B. INGHAM

13 April, 1981

PRIME MINISTER

ITN Interview

1. You have agreed to give ITN (Alastair Burnet) a 15-minute interview for use in full on "News at Ten" on Monday evening. The recording will take place at noon in the White Drawing Room. Mr. Burnet plans to record down to the actual 15 minutes, with no editing.

2. The interview will, of course, take place immediately before you leave the country for 10 days; very close to the second anniversary of your Administration; and in the run up to the local elections. It offers you a very large audience and the opportunity to reassure and encourage the public.

3. Alastair Burnet's approach will largely ignore your India/Gulf visit. He is much more concerned with three issues which will take up the whole of the interview in the following order:

- the economy;
- Poland;
- your style of Government.

The Economy

4. Here Mr. Burnet would like you to bring the public up to date on your view of where we have got to and where we are going, bearing in mind

- the Stock Exchange boom; is it right to be in such bullish mood? Is it accurately anticipating an upturn?
- which set of indicators is correct? Do you, for example, believe the CBI any more?
- will unemployment continue to rise, flatten out or begin to fall?

/- what

- what are you looking to happen in the economy next?  
Can you see your way to giving more help to industry?

Poland

5. Has this issue gone away? Can it go away? What can we do if the Russians invade? If we can't do very much, what is the point of making a fuss?

Government - style

6. Mr. Burnet's strong view is that you are trying to do too much. Indeed, he believes that this is the besetting sin of all Prime Ministers 18-24 months into office. He would, in fact, go further and say it is the besetting sin of Presidents (Carter) and Prime Ministers.

7. He will explore this; your alleged isolation in Cabinet; your style of leadership from the front; how you see your style developing after the first flush of Government and as you move into mid-term and the run up to the next election.

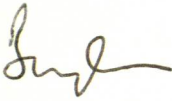
8. You have set aside 15 minutes for briefing before the interview and I think it would be a good idea to ask Mr. Burnet to join you for that. This worked very well with Brian Walden and I like and trust Mr. Burnet.

9. The issues which he wishes to cover are so much meat and drink to you, and part of your daily bread, that I have not thought it sensible to provide detailed briefing. In any case, the key thing about this interview is to give a strong impression to the country before you leave for a foreign visit of your being, in spite of it all, relaxed, confident and resolute. If there are two questions which come at me more insistently, they are about your strength of nerve and possible fatigue, the former especially now that the idea of public investment is such a strong runner. On

/this

this, I attach a recent article by Sam Brittan which may be helpful to you, together with several cuttings from today's papers.

10. I am at home all weekend if you care to discuss. I will be sending you digests of the weekend's press, angled particularly at the interview, so that you may have an early opportunity to follow up any particular angle.



B. INGHAM

10 April, 1981