



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Private Secretary*

12 May 1982

Thank you very much for your explanatory letter about "the interview". I will indeed choose a suitable moment when I can discuss it with the Prime Minister. In the meantime, please bear with us.

You ask which of the biographies is the best. None of them is particularly good! The one by Patrick Cosgrave is the most readable; George Gardiner's the most philosophical; and the one by Patricia Murray the most human and does not deal with politics at all.

I have no answer yet on the French interview. I know the Prime Minister would like to do it but I am finding it impossible even to find ten minutes in her diary, let alone time enough for a reflective interview. You also ask if I can give you some indication as to the sort of time which the Prime Minister might have available for Peter Bevan. Her diary between now and the end of July is horrific. She is working every weekend and does not have either a lunch or a dinner free. This excludes overseas trips and the normal pressures of political and official demands. We do have a let-up in August when I hope she will take at least a short holiday. But I think it is inconceivable that she would be able to do anything before then.

I will, of course, come back to you on all these points as soon as I have had a chance to talk to her - which at the moment is very seldom!

All good wishes for a speedy recovery.

Sir Laurens van der Post, CBE.