

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Alexander ✓

West German Television

You have agreed to give a short interview to the West German TV channel ARD at 0945 tomorrow as a curtain-raiser to your visit to Bonn.

The interview, which will last a maximum of 12 minutes, will be shown on a current affairs programme "Tagesthemen" at 10.30 p.m. on Thursday, 13 November. It will also be trailed on the main evening news at 8 p.m. that evening.

Mechanics

The interviewer will be Rolf Seelmann, ARD's London Correspondent, who speaks good English. The interview will be voiced over in German for transmission and ARD will take particular care to ensure that the English and German voice levels are not competing with one another.

A make-up girl will be available, should you need her, from 0900 tomorrow morning.

Content

The interview offers you the opportunity to put across your views on major international and Community matters of interest to the German public. It also offers a chance to express your confidence about the long term prospects for the British economy which is of considerable importance since West Germany has now overtaken the United States as our No. 1 export market.

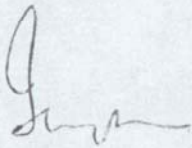
Questions

I attach the questions ARD wish to put to you. They are straightforward and we have not therefore commissioned any special briefing beyond that already prepared for your visit to Bonn.

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There may not be time for Mr. Seelmann to put all these questions to you in a 12-minute interview. If time runs out, he proposes to drop the last two questions. He is also entirely flexible on the order of the questions.

There will be an opportunity to go over the questions and what you might say at the oral briefing at 0900 tomorrow before the interview takes place.



B. INGHAM

11 November, 1980



GERMAN TELEVISION
LONDON BUREAU

DIADEM HOUSE
10-12 GREAT CHAPEL STREET
LONDON W1V 3AL

10th November 1980

Questions to the Prime Minister

Interview to be recorded Wednesday, 12th November, 09.45 Hours
Transmission: Tagesthemen, 13th November, 22.30 Hours
Interviewer: Rolf Seelmann-Eggebert

A The UK and Germany

1. Forty years ago this week German bombers raided Coventry. Almost one third of the city's houses were made uninhabitable. You were then a teenager. I wonder, are these early experiences still in the back of your mind when you go to Germany now as Prime Minister?

B Common Market

2. Great Britain and Germany nowadays are close partners in many fields of international cooperation amongst them the Common Market. The Labour Party has recently recommended to pull out of the Community. Does this worry you?
3. Recent public opinion polls seem to indicate that a majority in this country supports the idea of pulling out. Doesn't that make your position as a Pro-Marketeer much more difficult?
4. Community matters will be one of the subjects to be covered in your talks with the Federal Chancellor. Where do you seek improvements?

C New American President

5. Since your last meeting with Helmut Schmidt America has elected a new President. You have met Mr. Reagan. How would you characterize him?

6. There are fears in Western Europe, especially in Germany, that the election of Mr. Reagan may jeopardize East-West-Detente, that the political climate may change again. Do you personally foresee a new cold war period?

D Events in Poland

7. Your Foreign Secretary Lord Carrington has just returned from Poland. How serious, would you say, is the danger of Soviet intervention there?

8. At the time of the Afghanistan invasion it was thought in many quarters that the reaction of the West was too weak and came too late. Do you feel that in a similar event the West would now be better prepared?

E Anti Inflation Policy

9. Let me now, if I may, return to the United Kingdom. Mr. Healey has predicted three million unemployed next year, has foreseen that all of the North Sea Oil revenue will be eaten up by unemployment benefits, has even spoken of social unrest. Are you afraid of social unrest?

10. Nevertheless, your anti-inflation-policies have come under fire from many quarters: trade unions, employers, your own backbenchers, even the church. This united phalanx of opposition must worry your partners in the Community, who would like to see

a stable and healthy economy in Great Britain. What then is your message for those partner countries who read so much about gloom and decline in Great Britain?

11. You said in Brighton: The Lady is not for turning. Hasn't the turning begun now with the 6 % pay policy?

12. Mr. Len Murray said at the time: If she is not for turning, I hope, she is for learning. What would you say do you regard as your most important experience after 18 months in office?