

PRIME MINISTER

BBC RADIO 4 ANALYSIS

You have agreed to give Michael Charlton a 45 minute interview for the Radio 4 Analysis programme for broadcast tomorrow (Wednesday) evening at 8.45pm.

The programme is to be recorded from 9.30am tomorrow. I propose you should do this in the Study so that I can get the team set up and ready to go promptly. (You will be seeing Madame Chen in the White Room immediately before this interview).

Agree?

You will recall that you did a similar interview with Michael Charlton in November 1980. The BBC judged it to be a most successful affair and remind me that there was considerable spin-off on TV (sound-track), in newspapers and on the BBC's World Service.

BBC's Approach

I have not prepared any substantial briefing because, quite apart from that for Question Time today, you have given interviews this week to Illustrated London News and the Wall Street Journal and are well run in.

In any case Michael Charlton is not proposing to cover new ground and his approach is more philosophical than factual. But he hopes to cover a lot of ground so that it will be important to be fairly crisp with your answers - just as you were in the last (splendid) Brian Walden interview.

I expect that Michael Charlton will open on the economy and go through the following topics, though not necessarily in this order:

- Britain and the Falklands in retrospect; political and military stance of Britain; future policy towards the Falklands - what are we going to do with them? Cost, etc?

- Britain and Europe - how do you see Britain's relationship with Europe?
- Defence - in the context of the INF talks, Reagan's latest 'laser beam' speech and the CND Easter demonstrations.
- Northern Ireland - whither now with Fitzgerald instead of Haughey?
- What are your Government's achievements to date and what kind of Britain do you want to see in the future?
- Your ideas on the family - what are you hoping to achieve by putting some emphasis on family policy?

Demeanour/temper

I think your objective should be to get Michael Charlton, and through him others, to describe your performance as relaxed, confident and looking forward to another 5 years of getting Britain on the right road to success. Not cocky. Not over-ebullient. But quietly assured. Temperature down; confidence high - with justification.

Points to get over

You will, of course, be speaking against the background of the Labour programme, being published today. However, my advice would not be to assault it directly, but to take advantage of opportunities to rubbish it as irrelevant to Britain's needs. You will recall that Michael Foot cut a very poor figure in the Sunday Times recently in attacking you rather than presenting himself.

Other points

Economic - major achievement conquest but not yet total defeat of inflation. Can never relax attack on inflation if we are to secure and maintain conditions for growth which is now starting. Labour wouldn't put this at risk, it would blow it, because they've blown it all before. And bring more not less unemployment.

General world acceptance of policies we are pursuing. Look what happens - France - when people go the Foot way.

No substitute for sound, honest money policies - never was. And we can't strike ourselves to success - only to defeat and depression.

Europe - Committed politically. Committed economically - we have adjusted our market to Europe and 2m jobs depend on our trade, representing 43-45% of our exports to Community.

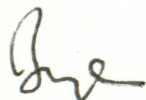
And overseas investment in Britain, because we are within Community, would dry up.

But clincher is our commitment to peaceful, democratic Europe - to maintain and extend area of democratic stability that is modern Europe.

Defence - Of course, many in CND are serious genuine people. But they are misguided. And because they are midguided they are a tiny minority movement. Will probably be more at 2 First Division football matches on Saturday than at Aldermaston/Greenham Common.

Britain of future

1. Soundly based, expanding, complementing our scientific and technological brilliance with entrepreneurial flair;
2. more self-reliant - based on the self-confidence that goes with success in contrast to the defeatism that goes naturally with decline which Labour policies would ensure;
3. Victorian? Yes, in the sense of adopting the positive values of the Victorian era without the grinding poverty and exploitation which has no part of our future Britain.



B. INGHAM

29 March 1983

BERNARD

ANALYSIS INTERVIEW

Tom Reed rang with the following outline to the interview:

1. They want the Prime Minister to reflect on the performance of her Government and the management of the economy, ie. achievements:
2. Britain and the Falklands in retrospect - political and military stance of Britain; future policy towards the Falklands; what are we going to do with them?
3. Britain and Europe - how does she see Britain's relationship with Europe.
4. Arguments over big defence issues - obvious defence questions in the light of Reagan's latest speech and in the context of the big CND march etc planned for over the Easter holiday.
5. Northern Ireland - in the light of Fitzgerald in Dublin. (*? Brussels*)
6. What is her perception of the Britain with a "balance restored" (reference in the Tory manifesto) her perception of the Britain she wants to see.
7. Her ideas of the family.

They haven't worked out the order of questions yet. If you have any other queries David Martin on X4613 will be available in the morning.

LINDA

28 March 1983