

Langston, Mr: For your information

FILE



Conservative Central Office

32 Smith Square Westminster London SW1P 3HH
Tel. 01-222 9000 Telex 8814563 Fax. 01-222 1135

Panorama

AS/cjn

5th May 1983

David Cox, Esq.,
Head of Current Affairs,
London Weekend Television,
South Bank Television Centre,
Kent House,
Upper Ground,
LONDON, S.W.1.

Thank you very much for your invitation for the Prime Minister to appear in a live interview with Brian Walden on the Sunday before polling day, whenever that may be.

I have put this proposal forward and will come back to you as soon as possible with a response.

So far as the proposal for a debate between Mrs Thatcher and Mr. Foot is concerned, I can only give you the same reply that was sent to the Editor of Panorama. This is that when the House is sitting the Prime Minister faces the Leader of the Opposition during Questions, twice a week, in addition to other debates. The Prime Minister considers that it would not be in the best interest of British politics to have a debate with the Leader of the Opposition of the kind that you suggest.

Anthony Shrimpsley
Director of Press and Public Relations

LW/T

London Weekend Television

South Bank Television Centre
Kent House Upper Ground London SE1 9ET
Telephone: 01-261 3434
Telex: 918123 Cables: Weekend TV London SE1

Our Ref.: DC/mjo

29th April, 1983.

Mr. Anthony Shrimpsley,
Director of Press and Publicity,
Conservative Party,
Conservative Central Office,
Smith Square,
London, S.W. 1.

Dear Mr. Shrimpsley,

David Davies has asked me to let you know of any LWT proposals for election programming that would involve appearances by the Prime Minister.

We should like Mrs. Thatcher to appear in a live interview with Brian Walden on Weekend World at noon on the Sunday before polling day. Hugh Pile, the Editor of Weekend World, will send you details of this proposal in due course.

We are also continuing to explore the possibility of staging two debates between party leaders, though we have noted the reports of Mrs. Thatcher's reply to Panorama. Should we succeed in securing the agreement of those involved to arrangements for such debates, we should need Mrs. Thatcher in London on the evening of the Sunday before polling day and the evening of the Sunday before that.

If the debates were to take place, we should not then require Mrs. Thatcher on Weekend World at noon on the Sunday before polling day.

Yours sincerely,



David Cox,
Head of Current Affairs.