

BERNARD

PERSONAL

PRESS

1. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
2. THIS IS APPALLING.
3. HAVE GIVEN A COPY OF YOUR NOTE TO THE CHAIRMAN.
4. APPROPRIATE CORRECTIVE ACTION HAS BEEN TAKEN.

MR GOW

I think you should be aware - and I don't want to trouble the Prime Minister with it - that there is some dissatisfaction at the BBC Today programme over their difficulties in getting Ministers to appear. This arises because, quite properly, the Today programme is channeling requests through CCO and not through the GIS and it is quite apparent that the requests are not getting through.

6/5/1983

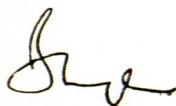
There have been two recent cases:

- (i) Norman Fowler who was eventually reached at 11.00pm at home by the programme and hit the roof when he found an invitation had been extended but not conveyed to him; and
- (ii) Douglas Hurd, FCO, who I understand the Today programme are approaching direct.

These may well be early teething troubles but it is important that they do not continue.

I have offered the following advice to the Today programme:

- (i) if you get no joy through CCO then go direct to the Minister's Private Office;
- (ii) if you are getting nowhere as a last resort come to me and I will act as a messenger boy.



BERNARD INGHAM

13 May 1983