

PRIME MINISTER

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Cliff

HTV WALES - "GEORGE THOMAS IN CONVERSATION"

On Tuesday morning, September 13, you will record for HTV Wales a conversation with Lord Tonypandy for the first in a series of six programmes entitled "George Thomas in Conversation". The other five guests will be Neil Kinnock, David Owen, Tony Benn, Lord Hailsham and Gwynfor Evans.

The series will be screened initially only in Wales starting on Monday, September 19. But HTV hope that eventually the series will be networked.

On Tuesday Lord Tonypandy will come to No 10 so he can travel with you to the studios in Marlborough Street where, on your arrival at 9.15am, you will be met by the producer, John Mead, and the researcher, Jane Taylor (an ex-Lobby correspondent). You will then have an opportunity for a relaxed informal discussion over a cup of coffee before going into the studio. The studio has greyish beige walls and stone coloured armchairs. A makeup lady will be available.

The conversation will be recorded for about 40 minutes and will be edited down to about 30 minutes. Lord Tonypandy will recount shared experiences and in particular the relationship between the Speaker of the House and the Prime Minister. He is anxious not to make it a party political discussion but wishes to concentrate more on your background, personal beliefs, your scientific and legal training and subsequent political career.

I do not believe you need any additional briefing on this. The objective is very much a relaxed conversation about you as an individual, politician and Prime Minister.

I hope you will excuse my personal attendance, especially as this is not a hard news occasion, since my son is flying home after a year in the USA, arriving very early that morning. A press officer will be in attendance and awaiting your arrival at Marlborough Street.

[Handwritten signature]

B. INGHAM

9 September 1983

JOY ROBILLIARD

At the make-up session this morning before the TV recording with Viscount Tonyandy, the Prime Minister expressed interest in some of the cosmetics used.

You may like to keep a note of them:

Pressed powder - light - by Cosmetic a la Carte, 16 Motcomb, London.

Lipstick - Honey Raisin by Clinique Gloss.

Incidentally, we should have received by early next week a video of the 26-minute programme which will be screened on HTV Wales only on Monday, 19 September.

Sheenagh Wallace

SHEENAGH WALLACE

13 September 1983

PRIME MINISTER

16 Sept 9.30 - 11.00
at TV-AM, Conder Lock

HTV WALES

HTV is preparing a series of programmes with George Thomas, the former Speaker, which will feature him in conversation with a guest, and they would very much like you to be one of them.

Their intention would be to record in London between September 1 and 16.

They are looking for conversations with, apart from yourself, the Prince of Wales, Lord Hailsham, David Owen, Neil Kinnock and Gwynfor Evans.

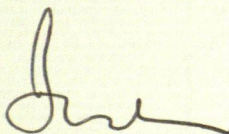
The producer says that his aim would be to put out 40 minutes of conversation, which would be edited down to that time-span, in which George Thomas would recount shared experiences with his guests and bring out their personal feelings about various episodes in their lives.

There would be no chairman or interviewer; it would be simply George Thomas with a guest.

You could no doubt make time for such a recording in the first half of September, though your diary is beginning to fill up very rapidly. I would have reservations about this kind of format with anyone other than George Thomas, but he has such a gift for conversation that I am sure it would work out all right.

Would you like me to explore the possibilities of recording such a programme in the first half of September?

Please see Lord Thomas's letter to you, attached.



B. INGHAM

7 July 1983

Yes - but we are
already fairly
busy during that
time