

PRIME MINISTER

1<sup>st</sup> rd 1030-1115  
arr. 1015.

READERS' DIGEST

5.15 for 5.30 pm  
3/4 hr only.

ROM.

[1045 - 1130]  
FRIDAY,

You have agreed to give a once postponed interview to Michael Randolph, Editor-in-Chief, Readers' Digest, on Monday evening - 5.00-6.00pm.

Mr Randolph will come along with David Moller, his staff writer on politics who is just completing a profile of Mr Tebbit. They will tape the interview and so will I. They do not propose to photograph you.

They are aiming for an article of 1600-1800 words in the form of a Q&A interview for publication in January. Thus they wish to ignore immediate issues which would merely date the piece, and concentrate on your aims for the next four years against the background of your experience of the last 4 years. In short they want to deal with the aims and philosophy of your Government. They will concentrate on domestic, as distinct from international issues.

This will be a useful opportunity for you to rehearse your ideas on the big issues as you did at the Economist lunch and as you are contemplating doing at the Lord Mayor's Banquet.

The Readers' Digest is admirably suited to an exposition of philosophy. It will probably reach 7m readers initially, and more when one realises that this magazine is widely read in surgeries etc where it can be around for some time.

The broad structure of the interview is likely to be:

Domestic - economic and social policy;

EC - are we yet getting to the point when Britain's Common Market interests can be secured without having to fight so tenaciously for them?;

Ulster - is there any end to it?

Within this they are likely to pursue:

unemployment - what future for those whose skills are being made obsolete by technology?;

education - what do we want out of it; what are the short-comings of comprehensive schools?;

British business - whither?;

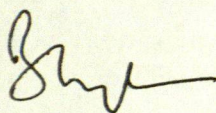
personal - what would you like to be remembered for? What is your New Year Resolution? (Since the article will appear in January).

I do not think you need any briefing for this kind of reflective interview.

Readers' Digest is good at boiling interviews down to their relatively very short length and they will clear the text before they go ahead.

~~Content?~~ *I shall be covering this occasion.*

NB: You may care to see at Annex A the attached boil down of a Time feature on you which has appeared recently in Readers' Digest's US edition.



B. INGHAM

21 October 1983

PRIME MINISTER

READER'S DIGEST

You are due to give an interview to Reader's Digest tomorrow 11.30 to 12.15. This interview has had to be postponed more than once.

The interviewers will be Michael Randolph, editor-in-chief, and David Moller, his staff writer on politics who has just completed a profile of Mr Tebbit. They will tape the interview and so will I. They do not propose to photograph you.

They are aiming for an article of 1600-1800 words in the form of a Q & A interview for publication in January. Thus they wish to ignore immediate issues which would merely date the piece, and concentrate on your aims for the next four years against the background of your experience of the last 4 years. In short they want to deal with the aims and philosophy of your Government. They will concentrate on domestic, as distinct from international issues.

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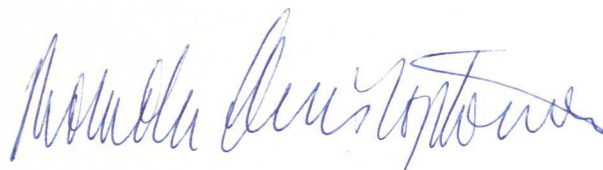
- Unemployment - what future for those whose skills are being made obsolete by technology?;
- Education - what do we want out of it; what are the shortcomings of comprehensive schools?;
- British business - whither?;
- Personal - what would you like to be remembered for? What is your New Year Resolution? (Since the article will appear in January.)

I do not think you need any briefing for this kind of reflective interview.

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I shall be covering the occasion.

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ROMOLA CHRISTOPHERSON  
Deputy Press Secretary

27 October 1983