

PRIME MINISTER

PRESS CONFERENCE, RADIO AND TV

I have put the media on an hour's notice for a press conference should the Conference effectively end at lunchtime. We should however try to avoid those press conferences being held by Mrs Gandhi/Mr Ramphal and by Mr Trudeau on his return from China (fixed for 6.00pm).

As I mentioned in my minute to you of last night, we shall not be able entirely to confine your press conference to British journalists. There will, for example, be a number with American outlets so there will be interest in the extent to which the Commonwealth has gone anti-American or has been prevented from doing so.

The news left in the communique is as follows:

- Cyprus, where we need to defend language which is rather harder than our resolution at the UN;
- Grenada, about which there is a great deal of interest in how conflicting views have been reconciled;
- Southern Africa; and, of course,
- the extent to which you have reserved your position by such phrases as "Most Heads of Government". (I am having a note prepared on this).

The main problem in presenting this conference to paint your contribution as a positive rather than a blocking role. This has been achieved over International Security and to a large extent over the international economic scene and we have emerged as resourceful drafters.

The attached speaking note attempts to put the most positive gloss on your contribution, and that of your officials, and I think you should use it as a short opening statement if you agree with it.

Another reason for saying a few opening words on these lines is to meet head on questions about your view of the Commonwealth and the value of these biennial conferences.

Needless to say, the speaking note reflects the line I have been taking in the score or so briefings I have given over the period of the conference.

Finally, just a reminder about the mechanics.

We have arranged for the press conference to be held in the main drawing room with the door as background. Still photographers will be to your left and TV to your right.

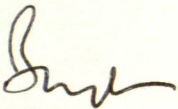
Both radio and tv will record the press conference but I have arranged for you to give short (4-5 minutes) news interviews to BBC Radio and IRN, BBC TV and ITN in the library next door.

In addition BBC Overseas Services would like to put 2-3 questions to you on the future of the Commonwealth - its potential and problems - for a programme they are making at the conference. They have already interviewed Mrs Gandhi, Mr Muldoon and Mr Lee Kuan Yew and are trying to arrange to interview African leaders.

I have said provisionally that you will do this.

I have however rejected a bid for an interview by Indian TV. I think 5 interviews on the trot are enough. Agree?

Attached is the draft speaking note.



B. INGHAM

29 November 1983