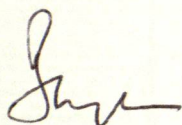


PRIME MINISTER

SUNDAY EXPRESS

- You have agreed, in response to an invitation from Sir John Junor to contribute an article for their December 27 issue, to give Keith Renshaw and Michael Toner a 1-hour interview at 2.30 pm on Monday, December 21<sup>st</sup>
- This is rather a long time in advance of the article but it is the only feasible one because of Christmas week production problems.
- Given the pace of events, notably in Poland, I have arranged to talk to Mr Keith Renshaw on Boxing Day (December 26) in case it is desirable for you to update any comment. If you agree, I will ring you on December 26 to check whether you think any addition might be useful on any particular topic.
- The Sunday Express (in the person of the same two reporters) last interviewed you at the end of April (published May 3) when they did a very big two page spread. They are looking for a tighter - perhaps half page - interview this time.
- Essentially what Keith Renshaw has in mind is a brief look back on 1981, and the first half of this Administration, but mostly a look forward to 1982. And what he wants from you for the future is hope.
- The interview will deal with current international issues - notably Poland, Middle East, the EC and your rapport with President Reagan; but mostly with the domestic scene. Mike Pattison has put together the attached briefing from Departments. This takes account of two well known Renshaw obsessions: the cost of BAOR to Britain and index linked pensions.

- I have added two notes:
  - a suggested speaking note looking back on 1981 and the first half of this Administration;
  - a copy of your New Year Message for Conservative Monthly News.
  
- Much of this briefing will be useful for your New Year's interviews with BBC radio and TV, ITV and IRN who have warmly welcomed your offer. I shall however minute you separately about these interviews nearer the time.



B. INGHAM

18 December 1981