

PRIME MINISTER

I have now had an approach from Malcolm Rutherford, Political Editor of the Financial Times, for a talk with you before the Summer Recess.

I know what you feel about Malcolm Rutherford and I have no axe to grind; he has made no effort to get in touch with me since my appointment.

He is not helpful but, on the other hand, he won't go away. Your diary is very full and you could reasonably play him into August but I think, if you do not want to see him, I should not keep him on a string.

B. Ingham

B. INGHAM

5 June, 1980

*He is no friend
of ours. However
he has of late and I
this sitting
out.*

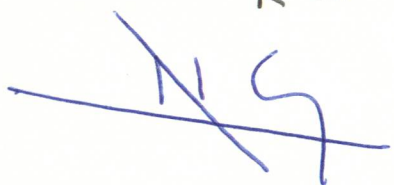
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PRIME MINISTER

You are due to see Malcolm Rutherford, political editor of the Financial Times, at 1130 a.m. tomorrow (Wednesday 15 October). You will recall that this proposed non-attributable talk was postponed at the start of the recess.

Rutherford says that he will want to talk to you especially about the "state of politics" in the country against the background of the Opposition leadership issue and your meeting with the TUC ("where funny things are happening which affect politics"). Specific issues on his mind include economic policy, Europe ("things seem better since the meeting with Giscard") and Northern Ireland.

¹
[~~Mr. Ingham~~] will accompany Mr. Rutherford.



14 October 1980