

PRIME MINISTER

Your Interview with the Japan Economic Journal

You have agreed to give an interview to Nihon Keizai Shimbun, the leading financial daily in Japan, at 5 p.m. on Monday, 30 June.

Nihon Keizai Shimbun has a close relationship with its British equivalent, the Financial Times, so there is likely to be some playback of your interview in the British press.

Mechanics

The interview will be conducted by the Managing Editor of the paper, Mr. Tsuruta, who will be coming over specially from Japan. He will be accompanied by his Chief Editor, Mr. Ohara and the London Bureau Chief, Mr. Tajiri.

Mr. Tsuruta understands some English but there will also be an interpreter present, should any translation be necessary. The paper would like to take a photograph of you with Mr. Tsuruta at the start of the interview and we have made arrangements for a COI photographer to be present.

The Opportunity

Nihon Keizai have submitted a list of questions in advance (see Flag A) covering major political/economic commercial themes. The FCO have provided a steering brief which takes you through the major elements of our relationship with Japan and also provided material for the main questions you will be asked in the interview (Flag B).

As you know, interest in you in Japan is intense, greater perhaps than any other country except the United States, so this interview offers you several important opportunities:

- i. To welcome Japan's growing interest in political consultation with Europe and the contribution she can make to the interests of the free world on important issues such as Afghanistan, Iran and the Middle East.
- ii. To emphasise that an orderly trade relationship between Britain and Japan is important politically as well as economically.
- iii. To highlight the opportunities for Japanese investment in Britain and Northern Ireland (Question 10 in particular) and the importance we attach to access to the Japanese market for our exporters.

You will wish to know that we have agreed with Nihon Keizai that we can check their copy before it goes to press and we have made arrangements with a Japanese speaker in the FCO to do this first thing Tuesday morning. Your interview will be published in Japan on Wednesday, 2 July.

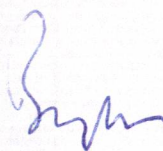
Other Briefing Material

I attach the following briefing material to supplement the main steering brief:-

- Anglo-Japanese trade statistics (Flag C).
- Japanese imports to the UK: sensitive areas (Flag D).
- UK exports to Japan: opportunities and problems (Flag E).

/- UK/Japan

- UK/Japan investment and industrial co-operation (Flag F).
- UK's economic relations with China (Flag G).
- A fact sheet on Japan (Flag H).
- A note on the results of the Japanese elections on 22 June and the main contenders for Prime Minister, and a telegram of comment from Tokyo (Flag J).



B. INGHAM

27 June, 1980