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"Panorama"

I have now confirmed by correspondence your agreement to an interview for "Panorama" next Monday evening and that Robin Day will be the interviewer. BBC have agreed to record the interview here at No. 10 at 5 p.m. and to remove themselves from the building as quickly as possible afterwards and, I believe, before the scheduled start of your reception at 6.30.

"Panorama" have also agreed to arrange for a "feed" of the interview to the Press Association so that there will be full coverage in the following morning's papers. In addition, I propose to tape record the interview to play it back to the Lobby fairly soon afterwards.

Your interview, lasting 25 minutes, will form the first half of "Panorama" that evening. The second half will be a filmed report on the George Bush/Ronald Reagan New Hampshire Primary.

We spoke to Roger Bolton, the Editor of "Panorama", yesterday about the structure of the programme and the topics to be covered. At this stage, their thinking has not got very far but Mr. Bolton offered the following four areas:-

- i. Your Government's proposals for industrial relations.
- ii. The steel dispute - Government's non-intervention policy - will it change?
- iii. General economic policy: how far is the Government committed to further cuts in public expenditure?
- iv. Any immediately topical international issues that may arise.

I shall pursue him further on Friday to secure more detailed briefing. In the meantime, Nick Sanders and I will get together after tomorrow's Questions to provide you with briefing.

I suggest that we should seek to avoid a substantial concentration on industrial relations detail of the kind that you had in "Weekend World". Given the much more compressed timetable for this programme, it will be very important to deal in broad policy objectives and concepts and not to get bogged down in detail which so often degenerates into jargon and nit-picking. I also suggest that a programme on the economy would be incomplete without reference to the EEC Budget problem and, if you agree, I will feed that into the programme.

Finally, I would like you to consider whether you should record a programme on the economy, (it will necessarily be pretty gloomy) amid the splendour of the White Drawing Room. The small dining room is more austere though it does tend to get rather hot under television lights, but I do have serious reservations about the White, Blue or Pillared Rooms. Would you agree to the small dining room?

Audy Wood

AP

B. INGHAM

20 February, 1980

Parrelling would also look
very sketchy here - would
get hot. I would think
do the drawing room - taking
out the panelled figures.
AP

BERNARD

Panorama

Roger Bolton rang back: as I thought, they haven't really worked out either the detailed content or anything other than the broadest structure for next week's interview. But attached ~~is~~ a separate sheet, should you still feel it worth while putting to the PM, *with* ~~the~~ their thoughts so far.

Andy.

PS Bolton will talk further to Robin Day and will come back to you with any extra thoughts the great man may have.

20 February, 1980.

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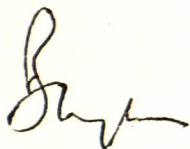
"Panorama"

I spoke to Peter Weil, producer, today and confirmed the following points:

- unless something really big happens inter-nationally - e.g. Tito's death - the programme will be home economics; he was, however, receptive to the idea that this might include the Eurobudget;
- Robin Day has not yet decided the structure of his approach and is unlikely to do so before Monday; I shall be talking to Mr. Weil on Monday when I am promised more about structure, topics and, most important, the opening gambit;
- industrial topics to be raised include BSC, BL and picketing from the point of view of events and proposed changes in the law;
- economic topics will cover the inflation rate, public spending and pay strategy;
- in practice, Panorama's intention is to cover much of the same ground as that with Mr. Callaghan last week (see Annex I); as you will see, this moved through picketing; the rôle of law in industrial relations; steel dispute and self financing pay settlements; British Leyland and its future; inflation and the Government's strategy; the obligatory belt at monetarism; public spending; and incomes policy;

- the interview is to be relayed to Lobby journalists, including Press Association, as it is recorded;
- a transcript will be made available on Tuesday or Wednesday.

Finally, I think I should add to the list sent to you earlier of awkward questions designed to help your mind focus on the interview a few on leadership, control of Government. These are at Annex II.



B. INGHAM

22 February, 1980