

PRIME MINISTER

BBC Radio 4 - World This Weekend

1. You have agreed to give Gordon Clough, of the above programme, an interview for use on Sunday (1 p.m.). He would like to interview you for 25-30 minutes - in other words much of the programme is to be devoted to you, partly with the objective of looking back (but only a little) on 1980 but principally forward to 1981. You will recall that you did a similar (and very successful) interview with Mr. Clough on the occasion of your first anniversary as Prime Minister.

2. Again the interview will be done at Chequers. I shall arrive at around 9.30 a.m. and Mr. Clough and his crew of 3 (plus driver) at about 9.45. The BBC will be anxious to record as soon as possible after 10 a.m. because they need to be back at Broadcasting House well before 1 p.m.

3. In essence, the interview will be a more relaxed and discursive version of the 4-5 minute interviews you gave on New Year's Eve. I am sure your objective should be the same - to dispel the gloom and accentuate the positive.

4. I understand that you have the briefing prepared for the New Year interviews. We have supplemented this with foreign affairs briefing (since the interview will give you an opportunity to accentuate this positive stuff) Northern Ireland and other matters such as a New Statesman allegation that the Government is hiding the real value of North Sea oil to build up a nest-egg for a pre-election tax cut. In addition I am attaching a copy of 'Time' in which their interview with Governor Reagan appears.

5. The broad outline of the interview will be as follows:

The economy, incorporating

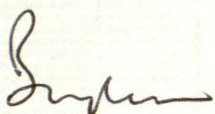
 - unemployment forecasts
 - money supply
 - public expenditure and PSBR
 - when the trough will be reached and the turn up come

- British Leyland (whose workers will be meeting on Sunday to decide their attitude; you will be interviewed before the decision is known; you can't go further than you did on New Year's Eve)
- Northern Ireland
- then into your visit to President Reagan and what you will be talking about. I have emphasised to the Press that you will want to have a tour d'horizon.
- At present, BBC are thinking particularly of Iran (in terms of our detainees); and
- The European Community - restructuring (and the present problems over supplementary budgets for 1980 and '81) and our Presidency.

6. In emphasising your objective of a tour d'horizon with President Reagan, I have told the BBC that no interview would be complete without reference to Afghanistan and Poland and their implications.

7. I am sure the British public will want to hear a calm, cool, collected Prime Minister who is manifestly in control. It would help to achieve this if you could provide answers in measured tones - perhaps slowing down the tempo a little - and, notwithstanding the 25-30 minutes available, be fairly short in your answers. It is counter-productive to get too complicated or too detailed.

8. I am at home most of Saturday if you wish to discuss.



2 January 1981