

PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WITH FRENCH TELEVISION

There has already been publicity about the interview which the Prime Minister will give for Antenne 2, the second national television channel in France next Monday, 10 March. The following facts might be helpful.

The interview will go out at 8.30 p.m. Paris time, will last 20-25 minutes, and will be shown on a programme "Cartes sur Table" a Panorama-type feature programme. ~~The~~ Past guests have included Chancellor Schmidt and President Sadat.

There will be two interviewers - Jean-Pierre Elkabbach and Alain Duhamel. Topics to be covered are attached.

The interview will be recorded at 10.30 a.m. on Monday 10 March at No. 10 and Antenne are offering a facility to British and foreign correspondents to see the interview at 5.30 p.m. the same day over drinks at:-

Antenne 2
48 Charlotte Street,
London W1.

Telephone: 636 4573
323 2706

Contact: Joelle Gee

Transcripts both in French and English will be available. The interviewers will ask the questions in French and the Prime Minister will reply in English with simultaneous interpretation voiced over when the interview is transmitted in France.

We may be asked why the Prime Minister, having giving so few interviews in the past, is now giving this particular interview to French television. We can point out that there have been long-standing requests for interviews from all the main French TV channels as well as other European media which the Prime Minister has not had time to respond to before now. Obviously the period running up to the next European Council meeting in Brussels offers a useful opportunity to put over our views on major subjects of interest such as the EEC budget. We might also counter any surprise expressed at this interview by pointing out that the Prime Minister has of course given other foreign interviews to the main American television channels as well as to Weekend World and Panorama.

[The Prime Minister has also agreed to give an interview to Die Welt but we cannot trail this until it has been firmly fixed. If pressed we might say that it is quite possible she will do one other major European interview before Brussels.]

C.A.