

PRIME MINISTER

PANORAMA

Venue

Ian Gow had a word with me this morning before I saw George Carey, Editor of Panorama, to see if you could avoid going to the TV Centre. The answer is: Yes. I have arranged for you to broadcast live from No 10 at 8.10pm on Monday.

Content?

Room

As you know, Panorama plan to have 2 interviewers - Robert Kee and Richard Lindley. They would like to have a reasonably large table around which the three of you might sit, and use 3 cameras. In view of this, I do not think the White or Blue Rooms will be large enough. The alternatives are the:

1. Pillared (yellow) Room; or
2. State Dining Room.

No 12.

Would you prefer the Pillared (yellow) Room, or would you be content to go for the State Dining Room if this proves better technically?

Content

The programme will last just under 50 minutes and there will be effectively about 45 minutes of interview. Panorama's intention is to spend roughly 20 minutes on the Falklands; 5 minutes on the Defence implications; and up to 20 minutes on the economy (unemployment, pay, unions); law and order; and finally the state of politics, SDP etc.

We are preparing a briefing for the weekend and Caroline is arranging for me to see you on Sunday evening to have a run through.

Format

Panorama is having an opinion poll conducted on the Falklands issue. It will be a re-interview of those who took part in the Economist poll published last weekend. I attach the Economist Summary of that poll but



you need only look now at the bar chart at the bottom right hand corner. The programme will not get the final results until 11.00am on Monday, but I have asked and been promised two things:

- a preliminary indication of the results on Sunday evening, if at all possible; and
- fore-knowledge of the result in good time on Monday.

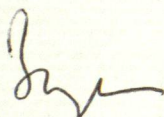
They seem likely to ask one or two additional questions, to the Economist's eg, whether it would be worth going to war if the price of getting the Argentines off the Island was some Argentinian presence.

Essentially, Panorama intend to introduce the programme with the latest news on the crisis and the results of their opinion poll. Against that background and any shift in attitudes they would ask you how you see the crisis.

They would propose to move from the Falklands and the Defence implications onto domestic issues by saying: 'Well, meanwhile life goes on in the UK - unemployment, falling inflation, etc.'

Their questions on the economy, law and order and the state of politics are likely to be conducted against the background of your approaching 3rd anniversary in Government and the question as to whether you are on course and on time?

Content, pending a more detailed brief for the weekend box?



B. INGHAM

22 April 1982

