

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA

You will recall that you have recently had to postpone your 3rd Anniversary interview with Len Downie, of the Washington Post, and also an interview with IRN. I hope you will be able to reinstate them as soon as possible.

Dealing first with the Washington Post, we need to rally opinion in the USA and to use the opportunity created by your being a focus for world attention to report encouragingly on your Government's progress.

You have in the diary for next Wednesday morning a 3rd Anniversary interview with the Sunday Mirror. I have not yet alerted the Sunday Mirror to this because of the crisis and it therefore remains free.

Would you be prepared to use this time for the Washington Post on the basis (which I can agree with Len Downie) that:

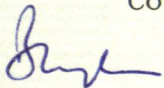
1. you say as much or as little as you feel able to on the Falkland Island situation in the light of circumstances; and then
2. deal with what Mr Downie wants to be the substance of the interview - a review of your three years in Government and a look ahead to the general election and how you will build upon your successes an election winning programme.

Agree Washington Post for Wednesday morning?

(No doubt you will wish to exploit your 3rd Anniversary with the Sunday Mirror if you find time - and you may well wish to create it. But I am sure they would take an interview for use on May 9 rather than May 2)

Third, IRN. They are understandably a little miffed that they have fallen by the wayside because of circumstances while Panorama goes ahead. It would be marvellous if you could give them 15 minutes sometime convenient in the coming week.

Content for me to arrange something, subject to events?

  
B. INGHAM  
23 April 1982

*Let us see how events develop  
over the weekend first*