

PRIME MINISTER

You are due to see Monty Modlyn at 11.30 am tomorrow (Friday) for an interview for the 'Jewish Chronicle'.

2. He will be accompanied by a photographer and his wife (who will monitor his tape recorder). He plans to write a 2000/3000 word piece (substantially more than his regular fortnightly column) and it will be the main feature in next week's issue. It is likely to attract considerable interest.

3. His broad area of questioning will cover:

- i The Economy: When will we turn the corner?
- ii Race Relations: Isn't youth unemployment leading to violence and racism? Is the Government doing enough to combat the new Nazism? *How to set up a think study group - could discuss. Admin*
- iii Middle East: Isn't the UK now a leading advocate of the Arab cause? If it is wrong to talk to the IRA, why is it right to talk to the PLO? Isn't the EC initiative up-staging Camp David? How closely are we now aligned with the US? And wouldn't another Geneva Conference give Russia a larger foothold in the Middle East? Have you plans to visit Israel? Will you invite the Israeli Prime Minister, after the elections, to visit the UK? And what about the bombing raid?
- iv Education: Will you resist the challenge to religious education being planned by the ILEA? Isn't there a risk that educational cuts may threaten the ethical values taught in religious day schools?
- v Nationalised Industries: What are your plans for controlling the increase in prices in many of the utilities (eg gas, electricity)?
- vi VAT: When will VAT be reduced?
- vii General: What have been your major satisfactions/disappointments during your term of office so far?

4. I attach short briefing notes from the FCO and DES on (iii) and (iv).

5. I have already told Modlyn that you will want me to check his copy. He has agreed.


NEVILLE GAFFIN

11 June, 1981.



N. Fenn

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

11 June 1981

Bernard Ingham Esq
Press Office
10 Downing Street

Dear Bernard,

PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WITH THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

1. The Prime Minister is giving an interview to Mr Monty Modlyn of the Jewish Chronicle on Friday, 12 June. You asked for some brief points for the Prime Minister to make on Arab/Israel, European initiative, PLO and on the six questions which Mr Modlyn has submitted.

2. I enclose some notes for the Prime Minister's use.

Yours ever,

N M Fenn
News Department

VOLUNTARY SCHOOLS: ILEA

SPEAKING NOTE

The London Labour Party must say for themselves what their reference to voluntary schools mean, but I know their statements have caused anxiety to all who have voluntary school interests at heart. What I will say is that those interests are protected. First, this is because any proposals to close a voluntary school must go to the Secretary of State for Education and Science for a decision under section 12 of the Education Act 1980. He considers any such proposals on their merits and in the light of the Government's policy that voluntary schools have an important part to play within our maintained system of education. Their second protection is that ILEA have to comply with the arrangements in the Education Act 1980 regarding school admissions and the expression of parental preference.

BACKGROUND NOTES

1. The confusion about ILEA's intentions on voluntary schools seems to have arisen from the reference to the London Labour Party's commitments on secondary education in its May GLC election manifesto. They said they intended to:
 - a. eliminate any discrimination on grounds of sex in the curriculum and make sure that full account is taken of the different cultural groups within society;
 - b. review the role of the voluntary school sector with the aim of ending all selectivity.

The London Labour Party have insisted that this does not represent an attack on voluntary schools.

2. Since the Government took office the Secretary of State has taken decisions on 5 proposals to close voluntary schools in the ILEA area; all were in respect of primary schools. Of these he has approved 3 but rejected 2.

INTERVIEW WITH MR MONTY MODLYN OF THE JEWISH CHRONICLE

Arab-Israel

1. Status quo no basis for lasting peace. Peace-making involves risks, but no alternative. A settlement must ensure a secure future for Israel (UK fully committed to this) and enable her to take rightful place in region, where can be a vital influence. But such a settlement not possible without also resolving future of the Palestinians.

2. These objectives not irreconcilable. Aware of Israeli fears and security concerns which are fully taken into account. But do not believe that Israeli and Palestinian peoples incapable of living together peacefully, despite geographical difficulties. Not seeking Israel's isolation (full support for international position of Israel), but saddened by Israeli policies bound to have this effect (settlements, South Lebanon, attack on Iraq). Israel's long-term future damaged by these policies.

European Initiative

3. Much misunderstanding in Israel. Not seeking to impose anything on Israel simply to satisfy Arab opinion nor to remove Israel's capacity to defend herself. No European plan as such.

4. Genuinely seeking to promote a balanced settlement in Israel's own long-term interest. Venice Declaration tries to take full account of interests of both sides. Resent doubts cast on our motives.

5. Fully accept central US role, and not seeking to undermine Camp David, but bound to state views about essential requirements for a settlement.

PLO

6. To say that PLO must be associated with negotiations no more than acceptance of reality. Have not given any official recognition or endorsed unacceptable PLO policies. On contrary use

/dealings

dealings with PLO to urge them to renounce terrorism and accept Israel. Is this not in Israel's interest?

Mr Modlyn's specific questions: UK leading advocate of Arab cause?

7. Not advocating Arab cause. Rather recognising urgency of need for a lasting settlement and promoting balanced basis for it, taking into account both Israeli and Arab concerns.

If wrong to talk to IRA, why not wrong to talk to PLO?

8. Condemn Palestinian and Irish terrorism equally. But two organisations and situations not comparable. IRA clearly not representative of substantial body of Ulster opinion (as successive general elections have shown - Sands election special case). But very many Palestinians, including elected representatives in West Bank, say that the PLO is their representative. Do not accept 'sole legitimate' claim, but cannot ignore PLO in these circumstances.

EC initiative - upstaging Camp David process?

9. Have made very clear not in business of undermining US efforts on Camp David. Accepted by President Sadat and US Administration.

How closely is UK aligned with US on ME policy?

10. Keep in very close touch at all levels. In full agreement on objective of comprehensive settlement. Differences of emphasis less important.

/Would

Would Geneva Conference give Russia a bigger foothold in Middle East?

11. No possibility of convening such a conference in present circumstances. Russia may have to be involved at some stage (role in Security Council) but great care needed over this. Best counter to Soviet influence would be comprehensive peace.

PM to visit Israel? Will she invite next Israeli PM to UK?

12. Hope very much to be able to visit Israel before too long (last there in 1976 in opposition). Will also obviously wish to maintain good relationship with next Israeli government (Mr Begin here in May 1979).

B. B.

Miss Stephens
can you update? 455
4067

PRIME MINISTER

[Signature] 22
Sec. Mr. Howe

PA

In January you agreed in principle to give Monty Modlyn an interview for the Jewish Chronicle, but you were too busy then to find a place in your diary for him.

He has now come back to Derek Howe, who has asked me to renew the request. Mr. Modlyn would like to interview you any time during the next month to six weeks.

He is, of course, a strong supporter and his column would reach a lot of your constituents.

I do not, however, have any other reasons myself for pushing his request at this busy time, when so many others are in the queue.

[Signature]

B. INGHAM

21 May, 1981

Will do.

[Handwritten notes]
7/8/81
B. Ingham
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~~11.30~~ 11.30 - 12.30 AMT.
on Friday 12 June
at No. 10.

NO MM to Pd.
Amey ordered from
FLO. 29.


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RICHARD RYDER

It isn't worth while putting this to the Prime Minister. She has been adamant - and rightly - that she is not going to have fly on the wall techniques for radio or television inside No 10. That is, of course, quite apart from the security considerations which are paramount.

Indeed the very circumstance that No 10 is both a home and an office make it philosophically undesirable.

That said, would you like me to reply? You could, as it were, formally refer it to me as one who handles media requests, and then I could write to him - in the circumstances at some length. I think it would be right to get the relationship on those lines don't you? If you agree could you drop him a manuscript note saying that you had passed it on to Henry James and I would undertake to follow up your letter rapidly.



Henry L James
18 June 1979