

Conservative and Unionist Central Office

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20th June, 1979

R. Ryder

Thank you for your enquiry about broadcasting arrangements for the Prime Minister on her coming visit to Tokyo.

It would be hard to exaggerate the interest that will be excited by Mrs Thatcher's appearance at the Summit and the feed back to this country should be of substantial advantage to the Government.

A useful tactic to stimulate interest in Japan would be a Press Conference with the Japanese writing press in London and an interview with NHK and one other Japanese station to be recorded in London ahead of departure.

This option may no longer to open to us as Strasbourg intervenes.

My next most favoured proposal would be to wait until 24 hours or so after arrival in Tokyo and to give an interview to Bob Friend of the BBC and to David Rose of ITN.

Bob Friend is absolutely reliable and will be known to Mrs Thatcher for his outstanding interviews with her in Australia. David Rose is not among the first rank of interviewers but fortunately his Producer Sue Tinson will be accompanying him to Japan and she should be involved in all discussions on interview content and can be trusted.

In the past we have been advised to do special interviews for syndication by the COI and BBC External Services. Personally I have never been convinced by any of the arguments put forward, nor have I seen evidence of advantage for Prime Ministers and Cabinet Ministers who have followed this advice in the past. It would seem even less advisable in this case as this would be the first interview given by the Prime Minister since her Election. I believe a better forum would be one of the two alternatives I have mentioned above.

Gordon Reece

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Richard Ryder, Esq.,