

E.R.  
PRIME MINISTER

*Will discuss  
with Deaver*

REQUESTS FOR INTERVIEWS

1. I am becoming a little concerned that we cannot make progress on requests for major interviews because of your commitment to the Sunday Telegraph last autumn (which fell through because of Ivan Rowan's illness).

2. We now have a queue of:

- Sunday Times (interviewer John Mortimer, Q.C.);
- The Times (Brian Connell, see Annex A);
- Illustrated London News (by Editor Jim Bishop; this comes to you with the commendations of the Paymaster General - see Annex B);

3. All these opportunities are worth taking, though I would also like to see you interviewed for <sup>the</sup> popular market for a double page spread in either the Sun or the Daily Mail. Unless, however, you agree to forget about the Sunday Telegraph for the time being (or offer them an interview as soon as the steel strike is over), you will have been in office for much the better part of a year without any UK newspaper (as distinct from UK news magazine) having a substantial interview with you on record.

4. We can, of course, have too much of a good thing but there is something to be said for a substantial printed interview roughly every quarter to half year.

5. Immediately, I wonder whether you would agree:

- i. either to revive the Sunday Telegraph offer or go for Brian Connell in The Times; I should mention that your acceptance of Mr. Connell's

/invitation

invitation would, of course, mean your giving him precedence over Fred Emery, who was turned down before Christmas - no doubt you would be happy to do so;

- ii. to play Brián Connell long - i.e. perhaps to offer him a first anniversary as Prime Minister interview in May - assuming you go for an earlier interview with the Sunday Telegraph;
- iii. to play the Sunday Times to, say, just before the Recess when you could sum up the first Session; and
- iv. to take up the Illustrated London News' offer early in March.

5. All this would not, of course, preclude an interview with the Sun or the Daily Mail at the appropriate opportunity.

Television Occasions

6. So far as TV is concerned, there are four offers extant:

- i. from Tom Arms, Diplomatic Correspondent of Thomson Newspapers, who has been asked by the Public Broadcasting network of the USA to do a series of 12 interviews with world figures on foreign affairs. Mr. Arms hopes to get the series networked in the UK and to kick off with you. I suggest we pass this to the Foreign Secretary. Do you agree?
- ii. Thames TV - a longstanding request from TV Eye, though you do not like Llew Gardner;

/iii. Panorama -

iii. Panorama - offering a live tour d'horizon of 30-50 minutes on March 3, 10 or 17; and

No

iv. Granada: David Kemp, their producer, claims that at the CCO Christmas Party you agreed to do a major interview in March.

✓

8. Assuming you wish to do a major TV interview in March - and it is perhaps unwise to commit yourself at this stage - I assume you would prefer Granada to ~~Panorama~~. Is this correct? <sup>Yes.</sup> But it seems to me essential at this stage that you should not commit yourself to anything. Should I keep them on a string, but sounding more hopeful to Granada (or Thames?) than to Panorama?

Royal Television Society

9. Finally, the Royal Television Society have invited you to present the Television Journalism Awards at a Dorchester dinner on February 28. This occasion brings together BBC and ITV editors and journalists. So far, you are free that evening. Are you interested? Personally, I would not push the idea.

B. INGHAM

4 January, 1980.

1 hour 1 broken wire  
before? 2 on 10 years  
ago?  
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