

PRIME MINISTER

WJ have to be
changed in view of
"Time" 'Times' 509 debate

You have agreed to see "Time" for an hour's interview tomorrow evening from 6 p.m. Your interviewers will be Bonnie Angelo, their Head of Bureau in London, and Frank Melville.

They are aiming for a cover feature and I have agreed to their bringing in a photographer, Jacob Sutton.

The interview will be recorded and it is intended to reproduce it in Q and A form. The earliest the interview could appear would be Monday, February 2, but Bonnie Angelo thinks that it is more likely to appear the following week, February 9. Either way, it will be a most useful build up to your visit to President Reagan. But in view of the time lag between interview and publication, it will be important to stand back a little from immediate news issues and adopt a more philosophical approach.

"Time" have sent me their outline approach (Annex I). It is clear "Time" sees the interview against the background of, in their view, the possibility of a re-alignment of British politics after the Labour Party's traumatic weekend. This, of course, gives you an opportunity to present yourself as decisive, resolute and assured while the rest of British politics swirls around. They will be persuaded to see you in this light the more confidently you can present your economic policies.

I doubt whether you need much briefing, though you may care to have a word with Tim and Alan Walters on Para. 2 of the attached advisory telegram from Washington (Annex II). Latterly we have not been getting a good economic press in the USA.

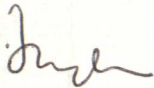
At Annex III I attach your comments from the "World This Weekend" on President Reagan as a reminder.

Finally, I find it interesting that "Time's" outline does

/not

not include Northern Ireland. You may think you should not miss a trick to educate American opinion sympathetic to the IRA cause on the Anglo/Irish talks, the ending of the hunger strike and what is on offer to prisoners who conform (and what is not available to those who don't).

Content?



B. INGHAM

26 January, 1981

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Miss Stephens

You agreed last year to do an interview with Time Magazine but this was postponed because we generally felt that it would not be right for you to do an interview between President Carter's defeat and the inauguration of President Reagan.

Time have now come back to me to suggest an interview on January 26 or 27 which is, of course, immediately after President Reagan's inauguration.

I myself would prefer you to feature in Time immediately before you go to the United States to see President Reagan at the end of February or early March. On the other hand, you have the opportunity on January 26 or January 27 to do this - very important - interview (see attached diary). But you may feel that you would prefer President Reagan to have more time in office before you give Time an interview and I hold to my view that the time to do it is immediately before your trip to the United States.

Agree in principle to an interview before the visit to see President Reagan?



B. INGHAM

19 December, 1980

We shall have a lot
to do just before we
go to the U.S.
It would be better to
get this interview over
now.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

3 February, 1981

Sir Frank,

I am pleased to be able to let you have an answer to the supplementary question you put to the Prime Minister on the Camp David process. I set out the terms of the question and reply below. I hope this is helpful to you:

"QUESTION:

Do you still believe in the Camp David process and do you think the European initiative should be hastened or taken a little more slowly?

ANSWER:

Camp David has demonstrated that peace between Israel and an Arab neighbour involving Israeli withdrawal from territory is possible and its achievements must be preserved. If it can make further progress, so much the better, but perhaps there is also room for a fresh look at the situation. Of course, the efforts of the US and of Europe must be co-ordinated. We share the aim of a comprehensive peace settlement. The speed and nature of the next steps which we in Europe take will depend on the results of the Dutch Presidency's consultation with the parties, as well as developments in the area. But we are in no doubt of the urgent need to progress towards a settlement."

John Ingham
B. Ingham
B. INGHAM

Frank Melville, Esq.,
"Time" Magazine

MR. ALEXANDER
PRIME MINISTER

As amended. 2/2

"Time" Magazine

Frank Melville of "Time" Magazine has asked if he could submit one additional question to you for written answer about the Middle East, Camp David and the European initiative.

This subject is of such interest in the United States and "Time" Magazine is so widely read that I recommend we respond positively. Can you agree to the following question and answer:-

QUESTION

Do you still believe in the Camp David process and do you think the European initiative should be hastened or taken a little more slowly?

SUGGESTED REPLY AGREED WITH FCO

"Camp David has demonstrated that peace between Israel and an Arab neighbour involving Israeli withdrawal from territory is possible and its achievements must be preserved. If it can make further progress, so much the better, but perhaps ~~this is the moment to~~ *there is also room for* take a fresh look at the situation. ~~There is. Of course, no question~~ *of rivalry between US and European policies* ~~of rivalry between US and European policies~~ *of* We share the aim of a comprehensive peace settlement. The speed and nature of the next steps ~~in our European efforts~~ *which we in Europe take* will depend on the results of the Dutch Presidency's consultation with the parties, as well as developments in the area. But we are in no doubt of the urgent need to progress towards a settlement."

Content?

[Signature]

B. INGHAM

2 February, 1981

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FM WASHINGTON 231525Z JAN 81
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELEGRAM NO 227 OF 23 JANUARY
INFO BIS NEW YORK

TELECON INGHAM HALL: PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WITH TIME MAGAZINE
ON 27 JANUARY

1. THE HOSTAGE STORY OVERWHELMINGLY DOMINATES THE NEWS HERE, AND WILL PROBABLY CONTINUE TO DOMINATE FOR THE NEXT WEEK THOUGH PUBLIC INTEREST MAY BE DECLINING BY THE TIME THE INTERVIEW IS PUBLISHED. AS REPORTED SEPARATELY, THE MEDIA ARE FOCUSING ON TALES OF INHUMAN TREATMENT, WHICH IS BEGINNING TO CREATE AN ANGRY AND VENGEFUL PUBLIC MOOD. THE PROMINENT ROLE OF THE BANK OF ENGLAND WAS WIDELY AND FAVOURABLY REPORTED, BUT THERE ARE PRESSURES ON THE ADMINISTRATION TO RENEGE ON, OR AT LEAST PUBLICLY CRITICISE THE AGREEMENT. THE PRIME MINISTER MAY THEREFORE WISH TO CONCENTRATE ON THE HUMAN ASPECT, I.E. BY EXPRESSING RELIEF AT THE RELEASE OF THE AMERICANS AND OUR GRATIFICATION THAT THE ORDEAL IS OVER (RATHER THAN BY EXPRESSING APPROVAL OF THE ACTUAL TERMS OF THE FINAL SETTLEMENT).

X } 2. MEDIA INTEREST IN COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE SO CALLED QUOTE THATCHER EXPERIMENT UNQUOTE AND REAGAN'S ECONOMIC PROGRAMME REMAINS HIGH. SOME OF THE PURISTS FROM THE REAGAN CAMP (INCLUDING DAVID STOCKMAN, THE NEW HEAD OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET, AND CONGRESSMAN JACK KEMP) HAVE BEEN ARGUING PUBLICLY THAT REAGAN SHOULD AVOID HMG'S ALLEGED ERRORS IN PROCEEDING TOO CAUTIOUSLY TO IMPLEMENT PLANS FOR TAX AND SPENDING REDUCTIONS. IN THIS CONTEXT, TIME MAGAZINE WILL PROBABLY TRY TO ELICIT QUOTE ADVICE UNQUOTE FROM THE PRIME MINISTER FOR REAGAN ON HANDLING THE ECONOMY.

3. HMG'S NEW DEFENCE EXPENDITURE DECISIONS HAVE BEEN CROWDED OUT BY OTHER NEWS IN THE US, BUT QUESTIONS ARE LIKELY AT THIS INTERVIEW.

4. THERE MAY ALSO BE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE EC IN THE MIDDLE EAST FOR WHICH DEFENSIVE BRIEFING MAY BE REQUIRED. DEFENSIVE BRIEFS MIGHT ALSO BE NECESSARY ON SOUTHERN AFRICA.

/s.

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5. WE IMAGINE THE MAIN THEME OF THE INTERVIEW WILL BE COMPARISONS BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER'S AND REAGAN'S VIEWS AND POLICIES, AND THE LIKELY AGENDA FOR HER TALKS WITH THE NEW PRESIDENT NEXT MONTH. THE PRIME MINISTER WILL NO DOUBT WISH TO STRESS THE IMPORTANCE SHE ATTACHES TO MEETING, AND THE DEGREE OF COMMON INTEREST AND SHARED APPROACH WHICH CAN BE EXPECTED. SIMILAR REMARKS TO THOSE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S BBC WORLD THIS WEEKEND INTERVIEW (YOUR TELEGRAM NO. 6 OF 4 JANUARY) WOULD SERVE VERY WELL.

6. WE WILL TELEPHONE GUIDANCE ON 26 JANUARY IF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS WARRANT IT.

7. PLEASE ADVANCE TO INGHAM NO. 10.

HENDERSON

(ADVANCED AS REQUESTED)

LIMITED
NAD
NEWS.D
INFO.D
PS
PS/LPS
PS/MR RIDLEY
PS/PUS
MR DAY
MR URE
LORD N.G. LENNOX

COPIES TO :

MR INGHAM.

NO 10 DOWNING ST.

Wingham

29 January 1981
Policy Unit

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH "TIME MAGAZINE"

We are preparing a brief for your Friday evening box for the Walden interview. There are two issues on which what you say to "Time" require careful thought, and consistent treatment if they come up with Brian Walden. The first is monetary policy and the prospects for inflation and interest rates. You will be discussing this with ^{Leon Parton} ~~Nigel Lawson~~, Terry Burns, Alan and others tomorrow afternoon. The other is the potential "Centre Party".

This note summarises what we say in our Walden brief (because we think that you should raise the Centre Party issue, whether Walden is keen to or not), for use in the "Time" interview.

While you will not want to sneer at the new grouping (this would be a mistake as long as a lot of people favour it, at least in the opinion polls) you should take the opportunity with Walden and with "Time" to put it in perspective.

Here are some possible words:

"The break-up of the Labour Party has been coming for many years. Some of its members, like Dick Taverne and Reg Prentice, decided to leave years ago and urged others to do the same.

"They were vilified by many of those who are now following them out of the Labour Party.

"Before the last Election, the Conservatives warned the country of what was happening in the Labour Movement - both in Parliament and in the trade unions - as the Left increased their control. We were accused ^{by Labour ministers} of scaremongering about Reds under the bed.

"It is sad to see the trade union movement -- already so unpopular in this country and even amongst their own

members - increasingly concerned with political power and control of the Labour Party. But that too is part of a pattern we have been warning the country about for a long time.

"No-one can tell what this new group will amount to. The real question is whether they have new and realistic proposals for tackling the country's problems. This is not a matter of sudden brain waves. It is a matter of doing what everyone in this country has known for the last decade would one day have to be done: to stop overspending, ^{discourage} ~~stop~~ striking, ~~start~~ ^{encourage} working and producing and competing.

Those who are

"So my question is 'Is this new group really new?' Its leaders have all been members of unsuccessful Labour Governments - Governments which have raised public spending, massively increased taxes, given the trade unions more power. If they now reject all these policies and seek to reverse them, then their aims are the same as ours. If they don't, then they are simply refugees from the old Labour Party, seeking to rebuild it in its ^{old} image and repeat its ^{old} failures. ^{anew}.

"If that is what they eventually come to stand for, then I cannot see that they are either new or relevant. It would simply be a re-run of the Lib-Lab pact. Not the New Left, but the Same-Again Left."

Dealing with the potential Centre Party is not so important, with "Time", as it is with Brian Walden. With Walden, we believe it is essential. We should remember that the general tendency in all the media is confused Left-of-centre. Those who are not themselves extreme Left-wingers, all hanker for a Crosland-style Party. They now have, through newspapers, television etc, considerable power to give such a movement a flying start. That is why we believe that they have to be cut down to size immediately.



JOHN HOSKYNS