



10 DOWNING STREET

18 March 1980

Jan

PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEW WITH 'DIE WELT'

The Prime Minister duly gave an interview to Dr Barzel for publication in 'Die Welt' tomorrow, Wednesday 19 March. Because the Prime Minister had to sit in on the Olympics/Afghanistan Debate, the time of the interview had to be postponed until 7.30 pm yesterday, towards the end of what had been a very busy day for the Prime Minister. The timing was not therefore ideal but I think the interview went well. And certainly there was no doubt that Dr Barzel was a sympathetic interviewer and wanted to project the Prime Minister as positively as possible.

I enclose a transcript of what was said during the interview which lasted for just under an hour. Also enclosed is a list of Dr Barzel's questions for cross-reference with the transcript.

Obviously 'Die Welt' is unlikely to have space for everything that was said in the interview and Dr Barzel will be editing to some extent. There was not time, with tomorrow's early deadline, to go over Dr Barzel's text of the interview but we have given him our transcript for cross-checking and we are confident that he will make an accurate presentation.

I would be grateful if you could arrange for the transcript to be telexed to European Posts, primarily for their own information, since not all of the interview will be used.

As far as circulating the text of the interview to interested correspondents, we shall have to wait for the interview as published in 'Die Welt' tomorrow. I have arranged with our Embassy in Bonn that they should telex a translated English text as soon as possible tomorrow to Overseas Information Department, FCO. I would be grateful for a copy as soon as it arrives. Could you also please arrange for the translated text to be sent to interested Posts abroad, and to the other recipients of this letter.

Many thanks.

C V Anson
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