

PRIME MINISTER

Jimmy Young Show

1. You have agreed to appear on The Jimmy Young Programme (BBC Radio 2) tomorrow for about an hour from 10.30 a.m. They would like you at Broadcasting House between 10.15 and 10.20. You will be met at the main door of Broadcasting House by Sir Ian Trethowan, Director-General, Aubrey Singer, Managing-Director of Radio and Harry Walters, the Producer. I shall accompany you. The programme will follow its usual format - an interview with Jimmy Young interspersed with records and incorporating questions from listeners' letters. I have told them that you would like to be away at 11.45 and there is a possibility that you will be in the studio for just over an hour.

Photographers

2. BBC TV and ITN will be waiting outside Broadcasting House to film you going in. I have also agreed to 6-8 still photographers (in two batches) photographing you with Jimmy Young before you go on air.

Issues

3. The precise shape of the interview will depend on the newspaper headlines tomorrow morning. I shall be doing a press digest and you may care to run through it before we leave at, say, 9.50 a.m.

4. As Neville Gaffin indicated at the weekend, the questioning, on the basis of hundreds of letters received, is bound to cover the economy, defence, the international situation and Northern Ireland. It will touch on such social issues as pensions and social security benefits but the programme does not intend to spend much time on these. It is also a reasonable bet that they will cover the Anglo-French bilateral on Thursday and Friday and Anglo-French relations as a facet of our EC membership.

Re-shuffle

5. The main news issue is, however, the re-shuffle, which journalists have convinced themselves you are going to have soon.

The Lobby, who will be glued to the set, will be hanging on your every word, waiting to catch the slightest hint or criticism or praise of a member of the Government. I have told the producer, Harry Walters, you will simply not be able to go into the issue. There is not much doubt they will try their luck, but they will expect you to say something to the effect that, if and when you decide to re-shuffle the Government, the media will be the first to know after those involved. You will recall that, referring to what a re-shuffle involves, you told the Sunday Mirror at the weekend:

"I hate doing it. Getting rid of anyone is a horrid business. You have to do it two or three times during the lifetime of a Parliament. And you have to say to someone 'Look, I know you have done a good job, but I have got to bring the youngsters in. You have got to keep the dynamic going. Some people you ask to resign. Because they have made a mess of things? Yes. Then there are others you can't promote unless you get rid of someone.

I hate doing it because I know the instant drop of money it involves, the problems of prestige and the way it will be received. It's something you have to screw yourself up into doing. I know what they're feeling when they come in to see me and I know what I'm feeling when I have to do it.

They ring up or go home and say to their wife 'She's pushed me out'. Of course, they know it's part of the job, but that doesn't make it any easier when it happens."

6. You will recall that on the occasion of the last re-shuffle leaking was an issue. My advice is not to rise to any bait on leaks and to play the issue, if it arises, well away. The press clearly love you to talk about leaks and it would be best to deny them their pleasure.

7. Another current issue is the Trades Union Congress. We can pick up the latest on this tomorrow morning. But you may be asked about Alan Fisher's allegation yesterday that the Government was behaving like bullies and cheats. I would strongly urge you not to get involved in a slanging match with the TUC (which is exactly what some of them would like).

Objectives

8. This brings me briefly to objectives for the programme. To summarise in one sentence, I suggest they should be to demonstrate that you

- are refreshed after your holiday;
- quietly and unprovocatively in command;
- confident in your policies (giving nothing away on a re-shuffle);
- treading the world's stage (EC/Ottawa/CHOGM/Cancun and immediately the Anglo-French bilateral) with assurance; and last but not least, that you
- are a sympathetic person leading a caring Government while doing what is necessary to make the country strong again.

Arrangement of briefing

9. Annex I sets out the arrangement of briefing. I understand a substantial wadge of material was put into your box at the weekend before my return from holiday. I am re-submitting it, but I am not including the Anglo-French Summit brief which you have received separately.

10. For ease of reference, I have also tagged in RED the material which has arrived since the weekend.


B. INGHAM

8 September, 1981