

Hull/Selby

1.

PRIME MINISTER

c. Mr. Ryder
Mr. Ingham
Mr. Lankester
Mr. Howe

The situation in Hull has deteriorated further since you approved a detailed programme for your visit on 14 March. In effect, the final collapse of its deep sea fishing industry has taken place this week.

If you go to Hull, we think that you cannot ignore the overriding impact on the area of these developments. There is time available to add to your programme a meeting of representatives from both sides of the industry. This would come at the end of the day, and we should thus be able to minimise immediate coverage, and perhaps create the conditions for a real attempt to discuss problems instead of grabbing headlines. But feelings are clearly running high in the area: there could be parallels with Sir Keith Joseph's recent South Wales visit. The three Labour MPs for the area (Kevin McNamara, James Johnson and J.L. Prescott) are in an angry mood. Peter Walker has been saying to them that there really is nothing he can usefully discuss with them at this stage.

We would expect to release your programme at the end of next week and therefore to write to the local MPs about your visit in the middle of next week.

1. Are you prepared to go to Hull in the face of the tremendous problems of the area which have now come to a head?
2. If so, do you agree that we should organise a discussion with representatives of the deep sea fishing industry, and probably including the local MPs?

MA

29 February 1980

CONSERVATIVE and UNIONIST CENTRAL OFFICE

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26th February, 1980.

Dear Mrs. Dickson,

Hull Fishing Industry

In the last seven days events have moved on rather rapidly in connection with the demise of the fishing industry in Hull. Just a week ago the Hull Fishing Vessel Owners Association went into voluntary liquidation and I have today been privately informed that the actual fish docks will close in the first week in March.

The fishing industry blames Britain's entry into the EEC and the Cod War for its failure. Ten years ago Hull was Europe's busiest fishing port.

The enclosed press cutting gives most of the background to the situation.

Yours sincerely, Dictated by Mr. Ward but
signed in his absence.

R Goulby (Mrs)

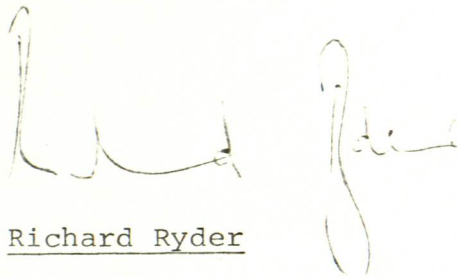
Mrs. Sally Dickson,
10 Downing Street,
London SW1.

Bernard Ingham

In your note to Mike Pattison of 28th February, you alleged that "Conservative Central Office leak a Prime Ministerial visit at the earliest opportunity".

I was rather surprised by this allegation and would be grateful to receive facts or sources that may have led you to this conclusion. Such leaks must never happen again.

Meanwhile, I leave you with a photocopy from the Yorkshire Miner, February 1980, which is self-explanatory. I understand that this journal is circulated at the beginning of the month and it therefore seems that some Coal Board spokesman released details of the visit before Conservative Central Office were probably aware of it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Richard Ryder". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

Richard Ryder

6th March 1980

MR. PATTISON

F

cc. Mr. Gaffin
Mr. Wood
Mr. Ryder
Mr. Howe

Reference regional visits. I trust that you are informing the Regional Conservative Central Office and the firms involved that we do not intend to give publicity to visits until about a week before. All experience so far shows that the C.C.O. and others leak a Prime Ministerial visit at the earliest opportunity. They need to be told that the Prime Minister wishes that no announcement should be made until she gives the go ahead.

B. Ingham

B. INGHAM

28 February, 1980

Strictly No leaking
of facts and sources.

Mr. Ingham

1. What experience?
2. Where?
3. How do you ensure

that once firms are approached about a visit it doesn't get out on their grapevine? Arrangements have to be made.