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Conservative and Unionist Central Office

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Chairman of the Party: THE RT HON THE LORD THORNEYCROFT

Deputy Chairman: R. ALISTAIR McALPINE

Vice Chairmen: SIR ANTHONY ROYLE KCMG MP
THE BARONESS YOUNG

17th September, 1979

Mr dear Richard

Would you be kind enough to advise the Prime Minister that there is unlikely to be any ITV coverage of our Conference this year even if the strike is settled the previous week.

In the circumstances, it is also unlikely that Weekend World will be on the air in time for October 7th.

Sir Charles Johnston is very anxious that the Prime Minister should give no interviews before or during the Conference as he believes that it detracts from the coverage that might be given to the rank and file members. I am afraid he is mistaken in this. The absence of the Prime Minister from the screen merely serves to increase speculation on why she is silent and leaves reporters and television investigators looking for mavericks and rows. But on this occasion it would seem an opportunity to respect the National Union wishes as expressed by the Chairman of the Executive. Better this year than on an occasion where an Election is in the offing.

Yours

Gordon Reece

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Richard Ryder, Esq.,