

PRIME MINISTER

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Sunday

"Time"

We have re-arranged the hour-long interview with "Time", postponed from Tuesday, for 5 p.m. tomorrow. Their intention is to feature the interview with a cover story to be published in the Monday, February 9 issue. A cover story/feature in Time will, of course, be read all over the world; it will also be a valuable build up to your visit to see President Reagan.

Your interviewers will be Bonnie Angelo, Head of Bureau in London, and Frank Melville. For the purposes of the cover photograph they are bringing in a photographer, Jacob Sutton.

To remind you of earlier briefing:

- The interview will be recorded and it is intended to reproduce it in Q and A form.
- "Time's" outline approach is at Annex I. It is clear "Time" sees the interview against the background of what they consider to be a fascinating week in British politics and the Labour Party's turmoil. 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 confident you can present your economic policies.
- I doubt whether you need much briefing, especially as the interview will take place after your briefing for "Weekend World" and next week's debate. As you know, we have not latterly been getting a good economic press in the USA. I attach at Annex II a recent guidance telegram from Washington.

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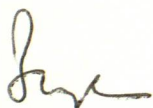
- At Annex III I attach your comments from the "World This Weekend" on President Reagan as a reminder.

- At Annex IV is the text of your speech to the Pilgrims Society dinner - also very useful background against which to give the interview.

I find it interesting that "Time's" outline does not include Northern Ireland. You may think you should not miss a trick to educate American opinion.

Finally, I have told Bonnie Angelo that you may well not be prepared to discuss the Opposition's problems. You will no doubt wish to consider this during tomorrow's briefing for the Brian Walden Show. If, however, you decide to take a line with Brian Walden you may care to give it to "Time", especially as they will not come out with it before London Weekend TV.

Content - and to do the interview in your study?



B. INGHAM

29 January, 1981