

PRIME MINISTER

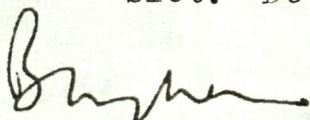
cc. Mr. James  
Mr. Gaffin

Two requests have just come in to which early replies are sought.

1. The "Sun" celebrates its 10th anniversary in mid-November and, through Walter Terry, have invited you to send a short message of congratulations and best wishes. If you agree, I will draft a contribution. However, while you have considerable regard for the "Sun" - and its leaders are often very helpful - I can scarcely recommend you to involve yourself in its 10th anniversary. That is far from a compelling call on your time and probably undesirable in any case; the "Sun" may carry greater conviction with its readers if you are not seen to be backing them on the somewhat flimsy basis of a 10th anniversary. Do you agree that I should decline the invitation on your behalf, while nonetheless wishing them well for the future?

*The Sun is a friend!  
Will do on.*

2. The "News of the World", through Gordon Leak, seeks an article from you looking forward to 1980 and the 1980s for appearance in the December 30 edition. I view this invitation more favourably because of the platform it offers. But I question whether, as Prime Minister, you should or need (certainly at this stage) to communicate in this way. Given that the country's prime problem in 1980 is likely to be economic, we might usefully steer the "News of the World" (where columns are remarkably open to members of the Government) towards the Chancellor of the Exchequer for this slot. Do you agree?



B. INGHAM

*I did it last year!  
I should do it again.  
no.*

29 October, 1979