

PRIME MINISTER

Salford

SALFORD/MANCHESTER VISIT: MEDIA

Bernard has minuted Clive about handling the media after Mark's rescue has been confirmed and there are a number of points you will, no doubt, discuss with him.

2. Inevitably, the news will dominate your visit to Salford and Manchester where there will be a very large media turnout, probably between 40 and 50 people. All will want a word with you about Mark.

3. Ideally, if you are agreeable, you should say something as early in the day as possible to the maximum number of journalists. There is no perfect moment or location during the visit, especially after you have entered the premises of your various hosts. But the earliest opportunity after landing - and there will be very few journalists at Ringway itself, and they would normally not be allowed on to the tarmac - would be when you arrive at Salford University. We could arrange for you to say a few words as you step out of your car and before you are formally greeted by Professor Ashworth. With Gordon Cawthorne's help, we should be able to arrange a reasonably tidy, large semi-circle, though not everyone will necessarily hear you clearly; and the Salford University students' demonstration, across the road, will be well within earshot if they break their vow of silence.

4. An alternative would be to say something at the end of the visit after the formal opening ceremony and before you leave the room in which the ceremony will have taken place.

5. We should preferably decide this evening so that I can make the necessary arrangements before we leave London. But it could be organised as we drive in from the airport if you want to sleep on it.

6. Other media points about the visit:

i Because of the very large numbers I am organising a picture and writing rota for all those parts of the tour which cannot accommodate such crowds.

ii There will, of course, be plenty of picture and reporting opportunities - including your two short speeches at the Salford University Industrial Centre and at the National Computing Centre - to get over the main aim of the visit.

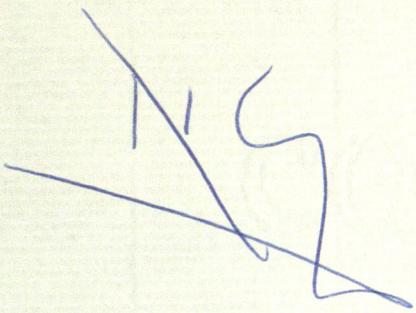
iii Earlier this week we turned down interview requests from both BBC TV and two Granada programmes (one for a half-hour interview). They then clearly had in mind to range widely over national and local issues. We were also making it clear to other inquirers that you would not be giving interviews.

iv To reduce the possibility of "ambush" interviews, during my recce last Friday I suggested some changes to your routes within buildings.

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- v Other than Mark's rescue, the issues on journalists' minds tomorrow will include the railway strike, the miners' ballot and the latest RPI due out at 11.30 am, as well as local economic issues including the Salford University cuts and unemployment. Mr Pattison has briefed on all these issues.

- vi The Lord Mayor of Manchester will have launched the NW regional IT '82 campaign at the NCC on Friday morning, a few hours before your arrival there. That is a completely separate ceremony and should not interfere with coverage of your visit. But it could crop up in conversation.



NEVILLE GAFFIN

14 January, 1982.