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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

28 November, 1980

Dear David,

Many thanks for your letter of November 25.

I was well aware of your interest in having the Prime Minister on "Weekend World" early in the New Year but I am not in the habit of putting things to her until we are in a position to finalise dates.

I was not aware that we had absolutely settled on a firm date of January 4. In fact, we do not agree that that would be a good idea. But I have secured from the Prime Minister a commitment to appear in a live interview with Brian Walden on "Weekend World" early in 1981.

I think that we should now try to fix a date other than January 4. Could you let me have your suggestions?

John Ingham
B. Ingham
B. INGHAM

David Cox, Esq.,
Editor,
"Weekend World"

WEEKEND WORLD

From the Editor
Direct line: 01-261 3477. Telex: 917961

25th November 1980

Bernard Ingham
Press Secretary to the Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

Dear Bernard,

The Prime Minister has told Brian Walden that she wishes to appear on Weekend World on 4th January 1981, but that as far as she knows, I have not invited her. In view of my letter to you of 11th August 1980 and your reply of 28th August 1980, I naturally find this puzzling. To clear up any doubts that may remain, please treat this letter as an invitation to the Prime Minister to appear in a live interview on Weekend World on 4th January. The interview would take up the whole programme, and the subject would be the progress of what we have called "The Thatcher Experiment".

I should appreciate it if you could let me know as soon as possible what you understand the position to be.

Yours sincerely,



David Cox
Editor
Weekend World

① ~~Cyprus~~
② Return to Steyn

PRIME MINISTER

I have tentatively put in your diary for New Year's Eve (a Wednesday) a series of short radio and TV recordings with BBC, ITN and IRN looking forward to 1981. You will recall you agreed to do these in my minute to you of November 7. The idea is to do each recording late morning so that you can catch the lunchtime as well as early evening bulletins.

Caroline suggests that you might then offer the interviewers and their staffs a short pre-lunch drink. Content?

BBC Radio "World This Weekend" have also asked for an extended interview on either December 28 or January 4. You have also committed yourself to give Brian Walden an interview for London Weekend's "Weekend World" programme early in the New Year.

I do not believe the New Year's Eve interviews will clash or pre-empt a BBC Radio "World This Weekend" interview which would be much more wide-ranging and reflective. Consequently, I would suggest you take up the offer. It could be done at Chequers.

Brian Walden's programme will no doubt be pressing for you to do their programme the same day. You cannot and should not do both, even though the audiences would be to some extent different. But I am also a little concerned that London Weekend should not come to believe that they have, as it were, New Year rights to a Prime Ministerial interview. There are already signs that some critics fully expect you to pop up on the Brian Walden programme in the New Year.

Content to do BBC Radio "World This Weekend" on January 4 and the Brian Walden Show later in the month (which would help to maintain a steady drip of message)?

B. Ingham
B. INGHAM

25 November, 1980