

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA IN RECESS

Caroline tells me that you will be returning early from Chequers - ie. Monday evening - and that there might be some time during the next two days to fit in some outstanding media interviews.

There is, of course, a host of outstanding requests but I would like to press only one upon you: ✓ Len Downie, of the Washington Post. You will recall you were unable to give him his promised on the record "Third Anniversary" interview at the end of April because of the Falklands crisis, and we have been unable to reinstate it.

Mr Downie, who is a first class and friendly journalist, is returning to the USA mid-June after a 3-year stint here.

It would be valuable:

- ✓ (a) to give him an interview for such an important journal; and
- ✓ (b) for him to return to the USA having had the opportunity of talking to you about your approach to Government. (He wants to interview you about how you propose to build on your first three years an election winning platform.)

You are of course to have dinner with the Association of American Correspondents on Wednesday evening. This was conceived as an unattributable pre-Reagan occasion and this is how they continue to regard it, though it will of course have a very strong Falklands flavour.

This dinner will not however serve the purpose of an on the record interview with the Washington Post which I would urge you to do on Thursday 2.30-3.30pm?

*on earlier.*

Content?

BBC/ITN

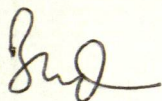
You will recall last evening I put up a note (attached) suggesting you give BBC and ITN TV interviews towards the end of the week. Your

manuscript note suggests you are thinking of Saturday. There is however a problem in that the media this weekend will be dominated by the Pope. For that reason - but subject of course to events - it would be better to think in terms of either tomorrow (Thursday), which looks impossible, or next Wednesday.

I doubt whether it would be a good idea to cut across the Pope's visit - especially when you have facilitated it by bowing out of the programme - unless events require it. One such event would of course be the retaking of Port Stanley. Subject to that, would you be prepared in principle to offer BBC and ITN interviews next Wednesday June 2? I should not of course alert them until the day. *Yes mt,*

You should know that I have turned down BBC Radio World This Weekend and LWT's Weekend World on the grounds, though I have not given them it as the reason, that you should have a break.

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B. INGHAM

26 May 1982