



MISS CHRISTOPHER HARRISON

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

6 January 1983

Dear Margaret

The Prime Minister has agreed to give a 50 minute interview to Brian Walden on 16 January for London Weekend Television's "Weekend World". This interview will be the second leg of a two-part programme, the first part of which will be shown this Sunday, 9 January.

The programme will look at the Government's record and the tasks which confront it as it seeks re-election. LWT may well entitle the interview with the Prime Minister as "The Resolute Approach". They are unlikely to dwell much on the past. They will probably question the Prime Minister on what she would like to achieve over the next five years, and what sort of Britain she would like to see at the next General Election but one.

We understand that LWT will probably concentrate their questions on the economy, and nuclear weapons.

Under the heading of "The Economy", Mr. Walden will no doubt ask the Prime Minister when she now expects "the upturn" to occur and what she sees as the engine of growth in the economy. He may also question the Prime Minister on future trends in inflation and unemployment, at what stage tackling unemployment will replace the fight against inflation as the first priority, how the Government will reduce the burden of taxation, how we will improve our competitiveness, the prospects for containing wage increases, and the Government's policy towards trade unions. He may also ask the Prime Minister what industrial base and pattern of employment she would hope to see after another five years of Conservative Government.

Under the heading of "Nuclear Weapons", Mr. Walden will probably ask how the Prime Minister intends to cope with the concerns of the peace movement, and how she will respond to the Soviet Union's and Warsaw Pact's offers on non-aggression and disarmament. He may also probe the firmness of the Government's commitment to the twin track decision, and the prospects of the Government's taking steps to acquire dual key control over any Cruise or Pershing missiles deployed in the United Kingdom.

I should be grateful if you, and the ^{Treasury} Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Department of Employment, could prepare briefing for the Prime Minister's interview. It would be a great help if you could arrange for the officials who will be preparing this briefing to watch this weekend's instalment of "Weekend World", since this will give them a much better idea of the questions the Prime Minister will face.

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It would be helpful if this briefing could reach me by Thursday 13 January. If the officials concerned need any further guidance, perhaps they could get in touch with me, or with Romola Christopherson in our Press Office.

I am copying this letter to Roger Bone (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) and Barnaby Shaw (Department of Employment).

Yours ever

Willie Rickett

Miss Margaret O'Mara,
H.M. Treasury.