

PRIME MINISTER

BRIAN WALDEN SHOW

You have agreed to appear on LWT's 'Weekend World' programme at noon on Sunday. Brian Walden, who was ill last weekend, is fit again and will be your interviewer. The interview will take up the whole of the programme and will cover some 52 minutes with a break in the middle.

The interview is seen as the second of a two-part programme, the first of which was broadcast last week. A transcript is at Annex I. It is entitled 'The Resolute Approach'.

Their intention is to cover nuclear disarmament in the first part and the economy in the second. The economic section will cover among other things sterling/interest rates against the background of this week's events.

The editor, Hugh Pile, shows no sign of pursuing the Falklands.

Mechanics

The programme will be broadcast live from the White Room. LWT will have staff in the building from about 7.30am. You are having your hair done at 10-10.30am and will then be free for briefing. The programme would like you to go into the White Room for a lighting test just before 11.30am. Subject to the state of your briefing you might then invite Brian Walden into your study for a warm up chat as in the past.

Approach

The essential point of the programme is to look briefly at the Government's record and the tasks that confront it as it seeks a second term. Brian Walden will be seeking your perspective of the next 5 years. What does your resolute approach add up to in terms of defence and the economy?

/Briefing ...



Briefing

You are, of course, preparing a speech for the CTU conference and this will be invaluable briefing for the programme. The content of that speech and its reception will also condition Brian Walden's approach to the economic part of the programme. He will undoubtedly probe you on your sterling/interest rate policies and the political implications of them. The other subjects of interest in this area are:

- inflation, linked with the £ and interest rates;
- scope for tax cuts;
- the labour market and notably further reform of trade unions on which Mr Tebbit presented his Green Paper this week.

Given Mr Walden's background, I am sure he will in the economic context pursue you about the timing of an election.

On disarmament/nuclear weapons, the main area of interest is clearly Cruise missiles and the control to be exercised over them - the dual key point.

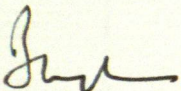
We have got together the attached briefing in the light of the first programme last Sunday and events this week. We are however in a dynamic situation on the economy and we shall need to keep updating briefing for your CTU speech.

I shall be in the office early on Sunday to digest the Sunday papers for you. You may care to think about whether you would like Michael Scholar to come in for briefing at 10.30am.

It would seem sensible to concentrate your thoughts in the early part of your Sunday briefing on the economy and turn to nuclear last. But I suggest you have a session on disarmament with John Coles tomorrow.

Content so far?

NB: You agreed earlier to do your own make-up. Are you still content?



B. INGHAM

13 January 1983