

PRIME MINISTER

FORTUNE INTERVIEW

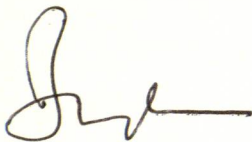
You have agreed to give an interview tomorrow to Fortune magazine, from the Time/Life stable, - a business, economic and political publication. It sells 1 million copies across the world.

Your interviewers will be Frank Melville, who interviewed you with Bonnie Angelo some years ago for Time, and Bob Ball, European Editor.

Some 45 minutes have been set aside from 11.00am for the interview and the questions they would like to raise are at Annex I. All are familiar and none call for special briefing. I have not therefore burdened you with much material. (see Annex II).

At the end of the interview Fortune would like to photograph you for the cover of the issue in which the article is to appear. In accordance with an earlier minute I am arranging for the photographer to set up in the White Room so that the photographs can be taken immediately the interview is over. Mr Melville says the photo-session should take only 5 minutes.

Content?



B. INGHAM

12 April 1983

QUESTIONS TO BE PUT BY "FORTUNE" - WEDNESDAY, APRIL 13, 1983.

The interviewers wish to cover the following ground, though the order in which the questions are put will not necessarily follow this precise order:

1. What would you expect to emerge from the Williamsburg Economic Summit?
2. If your Government is returned at the next general election, what are your priority tasks for the second term of office?
3. Are you still committed to monetarism as the principal instrument of inflation fighting and are you disappointed in its efficacy so far? Has the price paid to get inflation down been equal to the benefit? There are those who say that you have had terrible difficulties getting the money supply under control and that therefore the gains against inflation have come at a far higher price than you or anyone might have envisioned when you took office.
4. What evidence do you see that your policies have made British industry more competitive internationally?
5. The recent weakness of the £ has given rise to fears that inflation may head back up later this year. Are you concerned about this?
6. The weakness of sterling is related to the drop in oil prices. How do you see North Sea oil's role in the next few years.
7. What are the next steps in privatisation and how far can it go?
8. Given the problems of the EEC Budget contributions and enlargement of the EEC, would you like to see it becoming a looser grouping?
9. Is there a specific European role in foreign policy apart from the North Atlantic Alliance?
10. What is your judgement about the amount of difficulty in deploying Cruise missiles, assuming no prior agreement in Geneva?

11. Could you envisage a situation in which the United States and Soviet Union have come close to an agreement on arms control, with only the inclusion of the British and French nuclear forces outstanding? Would you then hold out against any inclusion of the British independent deterrent?
12. Is there in your view any merit in a "dual key" system of control over the Cruise missile?
13. Why is Trident crucial to the maintenance of Britain's nuclear deterrent?
14. Given the continuing costs of defending the Falkland Islands, when could you envisage entering negotiations about the future of the Islands? Would it make a difference if you were dealing with a democratically elected civilian government?
15. In the late 50s and early 60s Harold Macmillan played a key part in improving Washington-Soviet relations with his visits to Russia and role as "interlocutor" between Washington and Moscow. As you are now a leader of world repute might you not have a similar role to play in the 80s? Or is there no similarity between the problems that Macmillan found then and those of today?
16. Do you have second thoughts about Zimbabwe given the recent developments there?