



a B.E.  
Pres.

10 DOWNING STREET

26th April 1983

Dear David.

As promised, I have put your requests in connection with the General Election to the Prime Minister.

1. In principle, she has agreed to be filmed walking along one of the public footpaths near Chequers.
2. Again, in principle, she has agreed to the possibility of placing a remote camera inside Number Ten to capture the moment when she crosses the threshold for another term.
3. Again, in principle, she agrees to the placing of a remote camera inside the car on the way to the Palace.

I am copying this letter to Bernard Ingham, the Prime Minister's Chief Press Secretary, as items 2 and 3 in particular are his direct responsibility.

Could you give him a ring to discuss further details?

Yours sincerely  
Derek Howe

Derek Howe  
Political Office

David Mannion Esq

PRIME MINISTER

*mk*

ITN have set up a completely separate Election day unit with one of their regular news editors in charge of this operation.

They are putting together a great deal of background information which will be "dateless", including a working/relaxing portrait of yourself.

This project will obviously take time to put together.

The Editor has made the following requests:-

1. Would it be possible to have a film of you enjoying a walk with Denis around the grounds at Chequers? They do realise that there may be difficulties over the Trust. *We could go along one of the public footpaths*
2. On a non-political note they made the following requests, which I have copied to Bernard.
  - (a) The possibility of a "remote" camera inside No 10 to capture the moment that the Prime Minister crosses the threshold for another term. This would be something akin to the camera they have been allowed to have for certain Royal balcony appearances. There would, of course, be no journalist with it and its range would be at the Prime Minister's discretion.
  - (b) The possibility of a remote camera inside the car on the way to the Palace. This again would be a small, remote camera capable of one shot only ... a view out of the window of the car, NOT on the car's occupants. Previous examples of this can be recalled from the Pope's visit to Britain when they were allowed a camera on his aircraft which gave his view of the scene as he landed; and again on the "Popemobile" during his transportation from one point to another.

*1*

*ms*

Finally, Mr Mannion (the ITN news editor) confirms that should it be possible to complete the filming at Cheques before June, it would not in any way be regarded by ITN as an

/Continued ...

indication of your thinking on the date of the next Election.

Derek

31st March 1983

cc Bernard Ingham



B/P

10 DOWNING STREET

31st March 1983

Further to your letter of 28th March,  
I will get back to you as soon as  
possible and let you know of the  
decisions which have been taken.

Derek Howe  
Political Office

David Mannion Esq

# Independent Television News Limited

ITN House, 48 Wells Street, London W1P 4DE  
Registered office

Phone: 01-637 2424

Telex: 22101

Cables: Telindep, London PS4  
Registered number 548648 England

Derek Howe Esq  
Political Office  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

---

28th March 1983

Dear Derek

Now that Darlington is out of the way and before we get too locked into local elections, I wonder if I could pester you once more about our request for some filming of the Prime Minister for use in our General Election Results programme.

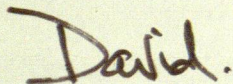
As you will recall, our intention is merely to display the fact that although extremely busy, Mrs Thatcher does have to make the same kind of decisions as many other working wives and mothers ... how to have her hair, what to wear etc ... and also perhaps occasionally enjoying a walk round the grounds at Chequers.

With regard to the possibility of filming in the grounds of Chequers, I am aware of the necessity to talk to the Trust as well as to yourself. Perhaps you would be kind enough to advise me who would be the right person from the Trust to approach in this matter.

I would confirm that, should we be able to complete any of this filming before June, this would in no way be regarded by ITN as an indicator of the Prime Minister's thinking on the date of the next election.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Yours sincerely



DAVID MANNION  
Election News Editor

---

# Independent Television News Limited

ITN House, 48 Wells Street, London W1P 4DE

Registered office

Phone: 01-637 2424

Telex: 22101

Cables: Telindep, London PS4

Registered number 548648 England

COME BACK  
IN 1 MONTH  
28/2

Derek Howe Esq  
Political Office  
10 Downing Street  
London SW1

28th February 1983

Dear Mr Howe

I have enclosed a list of some of the people who will be working in ITN on the General Election Results Programme and on the campaign. I hope it proves useful to you in the coming months.

As I indicated, those of us working on the results programme will be a separate, distinct unit.

On the more specific matters we discussed, I thought it would be helpful to go over a few points.

First of all the idea of a "portrait" of the Prime Minister would, of course, be in addition to and not instead of our more traditional packages on matters political.

The idea behind the portrait is to attempt to illustrate that even party leaders and Prime Ministers have other interests (even if they find the time to persue them almost impossible). A walk in the country, a quiet read, the time to listen to music, even the business of running a family would lend themselves to a piece of this kind.

I would be grateful if you could discuss this matter further and I should point out that as far as filming is concerned it would involve only the normal ITN crewing arrangements (i.e. an ENG crew plus a journalist) and would take in total no more than an hour or two (split into segments if that proved easier to slot into the Prime Minister's timetable).

....//....

Derek Howe Esq

28th February 1983

The other points we discussed were:

- a) The possibility of a "remote" camera inside Number 10 to capture the moment that the Prime Minister crosses the threshold for another term. This would be something akin to the camera we have been allowed to have for certain Royal balcony appearances. There would, of course, be no journalist with it and its range would be at the Prime Minister's discretion.
- b) The possibility of a remote camera inside the car on the way to the Palace. This again would be a small, remote camera capable of one shot only ... a view out of the window of the car, NOT on the car's occupants. Previous examples of this can be recalled from the Pope's visit to Britain when we were allowed a camera on his aircraft which gave us his view of the scene as he landed; and again on the "Popemobile" during his transportation from one point to another.

Many thanks for your kind assistance in this matter.

Yours sincerely

*David Mannion.*

DAVID MANNION  
Election News Editor

# Independent Television News Limited

ITN House, 48 Wells Street, London W1P 4DE  
Registered office

Phone: 01-637 2424

Telex: 22101

Cables: Telindep. London PS4  
Registered number 548648 England

## GENERAL ELECTION PROGRAMME:

PRODUCER: Sue Tinson X 2424  
NEWS EDITOR: David Mannion X 2567 or 2678  
ASSISTANT NEWS EDITOR: Rosie Hayes X 2679

## GENERAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN:

PRODUCER: Stewart Purvis X 2404  
NEWS EDITOR: Nigel Hancock X 2323