

PRIME MINISTER

PRESENTATION - TO RECESS

You may find this note useful in looking ahead over the next 4-6 weeks to the Recess, assuming you are returned.

Your Immediate Return

The stance you strike on your re-election will live with you for the whole of your second Parliament, just as St Francis of Assisi frequently returned during your first. That stance will be to some extent, but not fundamentally, conditioned by your majority. I attach at Annex I a draft speaking note to stimulate your thinking.

Objectives

Your presentation on your re-election does, of course, depend on your objectives for your second term. I am being asked about these now, notably by overseas writers. My line is as follows:

- your prime task will be to complete the work of modernising Britain's economy and attitudes; in addition
- to develop a property owning democracy with a keen sense of personal responsibility and self reliance;
- to secure a lasting reform of the EC Budget and to develop our European role and partnership;
- to strengthen the Alliance of the free nations whose defence is secure at the lowest possible level of armaments; and
- to achieve, if possible, acceptable solutions to the problems posed by trouble spots around the world - eg. Falklands, Hong Kong, Gibraltar, not to mention Northern Ireland.

In addition I am suggesting that you may wish, against the background of your relatively long experience of office, to play a larger but as yet undefined role on the world's stage, though the priority must remain to secure the regeneration of Britain's economy.

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Post Election Psychology

After this rather dirty election the public will be looking for a rest from it all. The bigger your majority the more they will expect magnanimity from you. You will be able to afford to be generous, subject to certain provisos.

The honeymoon will be shorter this time. At most it will run to Christmas.

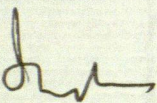
Longer term, what you will have to cope with is the boredom factor. It will be necessary to generate your own excitement as a Prime Minister and an Administration.

Nor should you under-estimate the British capacity to reject success. The more successful you are - ie. the bigger your majority - the more the media will seek to bring you down to earth and humble you. ✓

Stance

In the light of all this, it is important you underplay your success, make no rash promises, send everyone on holiday on a note of re-assurance, play down expectations and prepare people for a quiet life.

That is what the Speaking note at Annex I seeks to do.



B. INGHAM

7 June 1983

DRAFT SPEAKING NOTE ON RE-ELECTION

- Naturally glad I am returned [with an increased/big/record majority].
- After the rigours of the election campaign I feel rejuvenated by the vote of confidence and support.
- We've now got to put all the hard words and bruises of the campaign behind us and get back to work - to the work of building a British economic recovery; of promoting new technologies, new industries, new businesses; and the patient continuous effort of securing real jobs for more of our people.
- Governments can't do this on their own, whatever their majority. Building a new, successful, resurgent Britain is a job for all of us, working together.
- My aim on taking up my second term of office, after four years experience, is to help fashion the United Kingdom into a force united for the good of its people - all its people - and the peoples of the world.
- I want to see us not merely economically successful, in jobs and more prosperous; I want to see us, the people of Great Britain, a positive force in the European Community which has sorted out its longer term financial structure. I want to see us as a force for peace in the world operating behind the sure shield of the North Atlantic Alliance.
- And I want to see us helping other countries who are trying to make their way in the world to do just that on the basis of the kind of willing co-operation that I look for - and which I believe the voters want - here at home. We have a great deal still to do in Britain. That I never concealed throughout the election campaign. Let us now apply ourselves to the task.

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- I look forward to working for another 5 years, and if possible longer, with the people of this country to achieve what I believe is our historic task as a nation - to work for peace and prosperity combined with freedom and justice in the world on the basis of peace, prosperity, freedom and justice at home.

- Self confident at home. Self confident abroad. Fearing no-one. Extending friendship to all who seek a free and just society.

- But all our confidence and authority will rest on our economic and social strength at home. We must build that national strength together - and on that basis develop our force for good in the world.