

PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA

You have agreed that we should:

1. Turn down requests for interviews by USA correspondents.
2. Play the Mexicans by ear, subject to your views;
3. Meet the British Press at the end of the Conference; and
4. Give interviews to BBC radio and TV, ITN and IRN after your concluding Press Conference.

I would now like to take your mind afresh in the light of how we see the Conference developing and the very positive note ~~on~~ which we have started.

First, requests for interviews from different parts of the globe are now crowding in. I have no difficulty in turning them down. But you are clearly a Conference personality. We have portrayed ourselves at the outset as being positive but practical and, subject to developments, you have a chance to present yourself to the world in a positive light. (And back home to show a softer but none-the-less practical side of your Administration.)

For this reason I am inclined now to advise you to meet the world's Press gathered here in the Press Centre at 8-8.15 on Saturday morning for, say, 30 minutes and then to do short BBC radio and TV, ITN and IRN interviews.

If you were prepared to do that we could reasonably turn down other requests for interviews; these people would have the opportunity to record you at the Press Conference.

Content therefore to convert your end-of-the-meeting Press Conference into a general, open Press Conference?

/Two other

Two other issues remain outstanding:

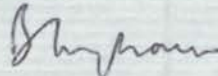
- i. the need to ensure that our point of view gets across to the world as rapidly as possible after the Conference and
- ii. a specific endorsement by President Lopez Portillo of a request by Mexican Channel 13 TV - in effect the Government control channel - to interview you for the purposes of a comprehensive Conference record; the interview would be networked throughout South America and we could control the questions (these people gave Lord Carrington a very fair crack of the whip in August).

On point i. we can safeguard our interests by your giving BBC World Service, with PA/Reuter present, an interview after the final session of the Conference on Friday evening. I would urge you to do this.

Content?

On point ii. above, you could give this brief interview to Mexican television again on Friday evening or (less desirable because of the rush) on Saturday morning.

Content for me to organise Mexican Channel 13 as convenient?



BERNARD INGHAM

22 October 1981