



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

Sir Robert Armstrong

I have shown the Prime Minister your minute of 21 October in which you seek her approval to write to Mr. Michael Evans of the Times in the terms of the draft attached to your minute.

The Prime Minister agrees that you should respond to Mr. Evans' request as you suggest and that you should write as you propose. She has noted that you will show her the proposed article on the Cabinet Office in draft.

I am copying this minute to Mr. Ingham and Mr. J.B. Wright.

(N. L. WICKS)
22 October 1986

ECW



Prime Minister
Agree h TA should
write as he progresses
over?

Ref. A086/2978

MR WICKS

cc Mr Ingham
Mr J B Wright

Yes

N.C.U
21-10.

The Cabinet Office will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary on 9 December 1986. That is (I think to the day) the 70th Anniversary of the first time Sir Maurice Hankey took his place beside Mr Lloyd-George at a meeting of the Cabinet in 1916.

2. It has been suggested that the occasion should be marked with a signed article in The Times, to be published on that day, giving a brief account of the development of the Cabinet Office since 1916.

3. I have now been asked by the new "Whitehall correspondent" of The Times to give an interview for a feature article in The Times on the history of the Cabinet Office to the present day, in connection with the Anniversary. I should like to reply, --- refusing the interview but offering the signed article. I attach a draft of the letter which I would propose to send.

4. I should much prefer not to give an interview. As you know, I have made it a rule not to give interviews to the media; and it has been convenient to rely on that rule on a number of occasions: I do not want to spoil it by breaking it.

5. If the Prime Minister is content, I shall of course show her the proposed article in draft.

RA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

21 October 1986



DRAFT LETTER FROM SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG TO

Michael Evans Esq
The Times
PO Box 481
Virginia Street
London
E1 9BD

Thank you for your letter of 9 October.

I have made it a general rule since I took up my present appointment not to give interviews to the press and broadcasting media, and I do not think that I should depart from that rule now.

I should, however, be willing to contribute a signed article on the Cabinet Office to The Times for publication on 9 December 1986, which is the day on which the Cabinet Office will be celebrating its 70th Anniversary.