

B. R.  
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PRIME MINISTER

Party Political Broadcast

At 9.00 am tomorrow (Wednesday) you are meeting with Peter Brooke, Tony Jay and Gordon Reece to discuss the Party Political Broadcast. Harvey Thomas and Gordon have already conducted a preliminary recce of Sue Prendegast's flat and are generally content. Gordon will report on this at the meeting.

I attach a first draft of the script which has been prepared by Tony Jay and checked by Robin Harris; it seems an excellent foundation on which to build. It could perhaps do with one or two more bull points but the structure reflects very well our discussions of last week.

JML  
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JOHN WHITTINGDALE

19.1.88

CONFIDENTIAL

CONSERVATIVE PARTY POLITICAL BROADCAST, 3rd FEBRUARY 1988

FIRST DRAFT SCRIPT

THE PRIME MINISTER:

I don't know if you watched any of those

programmes that looked back on 1987. They

seemed to be dominated by <sup>some logic</sup> ~~disasters~~. <sup>And indeed</sup> I suppose

~~it's because disasters make the most dramatic~~

~~pictures.~~ <sup>beyond those things</sup> But if you look behind the single

dramatic events, if you look at the whole year,

<sup>something very different</sup> you see ~~the exact~~ opposite. 1987 was one of

Britain's best years since the war.

<sup>can</sup> I've been all round the country <sup>a lot during</sup> ~~over~~ the year, and

<sup>down</sup> it's been the same story <sup>down</sup> everywhere: the story of

a great nation on the move - a nation <sup>how</sup> ~~growing~~ faster

than Japan, Germany and the United States. <sup>And</sup> It's

not just London and the South East. The evidence

is all round us.

.../...

## STILL PHOTOGRAPH SEQUENCE

STILL: In the North East, six thousand new businesses are being created every year.

STILL: Scotland is now the most prosperous British region outside the South East and East Anglia.

STILL: In East Anglia, jobs are up by twenty per cent in just four years.

STILL: Manchester is now the next biggest financial centre outside London

END OF STILL PHOTOGRAPH SEQUENCE

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Of course some areas are ahead of others - that's how industrial growth has always happened. But the growth is happening everywhere. And the reason is that there is a new spirit abroad in

.../...

the land: a spirit of enterprise and ~~self-~~ <sup>vitality</sup>

~~reliance~~ - that same spirit that built our

<sup>great</sup> cities and ~~made them great~~ a hundred years ago.

The British people have started to believe in

themselves again. This government did not

create that spirit. It was there all along, but

it was held down by the dead hand of state

bureaucracy. What we have done is to set it

free. Now I believe it is ~~unstoppable~~.

This rising prosperity ~~doesn't only~~ <sup>means</sup> mean that

every <sup>family</sup> family has a bigger chance of a better life.

<sup>But more than that it</sup> It ~~also~~ means we can afford a better safety net to

support those who can't support themselves. ~~And~~

~~it means something else as well.~~ It means the

whole world now looks at us with a new respect.

The people who came here ten years ago to study

the illness now come here to study the cure.

~~And~~ <sup>And</sup> there's a reason why that's particularly  
~~important.~~ <sup>'65</sup> You ~~see~~, when I said 1987 had been  
 a good year, I meant something more than ~~the~~  
~~rising tide of success here~~ <sup>on</sup> at home. It was  
~~also~~ a year that brought a new hope of peace  
 in the world. Of course there are still <sup>a lot of</sup> trouble  
 spots and ~~flashpoints~~ - ~~too many of them for any~~  
~~of us to relax.~~ But the strength of Britain,  
 with eight years of economic success and <sup>steady</sup> ~~firm~~  
 and <sup>strong</sup> ~~consistent~~ government behind us, gives us  
 a very special part of play.

#### STILL PHOTOGRAPH SEQUENCE

PM with  
European  
leaders.

~~The~~ European countries are looking to us more  
 and more for a lead. They get cross with us  
 sometimes, but not for our weakness.

PM with  
US President.

~~The~~ Americans have come to trust us as a  
staunch ally and their strongest link with  
Europe. We speak the same language - the  
language of peace / from strength. And because of

PM with  
Gorbachev

our special links with America and Europe, Russia  
sees us as a key <sup>to</sup> ~~participant in~~ building peace  
agreements that <sup>are made for</sup> all three of us <sup>keep</sup> ~~can live with~~.

And our place in the centre of the Commonwealth

PM -  
African  
Tour

<sup>with us</sup> means we can ~~spea~~ ~~for~~ the ~~newer~~ developing countries  
who are in danger of being overlooked when great  
powers get together.

END OF STILL SEQUENCE

If you're trying to build a more peaceful world,  
you need a steady hand. And eight years of  
growing strong at home and playing straight  
abroad have given Britain an authority and a  
credibility in the world that will be even more  
important in 1988. That's why this country has  
.../...

such a great future. ~~People know it because~~  
~~we've shown them.~~ Now we have to grasp it.  
~~And~~ that means we have to stand firm and stay  
strong, and keep looking forwards. Our past  
is something we have inherited, but our future is  
something we have to earn.

END

(645 words. Approximate running time: 4'35")