

PRIME MINISTER

AMERICAN TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

The purpose of the interviews is to put across your views on INF ratification. The main points to make are:

- you support the INF Treaty. It is a good agreement;
- that view is shared throughout Western Europe;
- particular bull points are that it establishes the principal of unequal reductions in areas (in practice virtually all) where the Soviet Union has superiority: and it introduces stringent and intensive verification procedures, which will be needed in future arms control agreements;
- the Soviet Union did all it could to frustrate the agreement: walk-outs, artificial linkages to other agreements, attempts to include the British and French deterrents. But at the end of the day, they accepted the West's proposal of 1981;
- this shows that if NATO sticks together and negotiates from strength it will succeed;
- the INF Treaty will not weaken Europe's security (as some in the United States have claimed). It will eliminate entirely a large number of Soviet weapons targetted on Europe. The 330,000 American forces in Europe - for which we are very grateful - will continue to couple Europe and the US;
- there may nevertheless be a need for some adjustment in the deployment of the Alliance's airborne and seaborne nuclear weapons, to ensure that the strategy of flexible response is maintained. This is not of course prohibited by the INF Treaty;

- it is absolutely vital that the Senate should ratify the Treaty. This goes to the heart of the United States' reputation as a reliable negotiating partner;
- the Europeans, who accepted responsibility for deployment of Cruise and Pershing, all want ratification. Failure to ratify would divide NATO;
- looking to the future, the West will continue to depend on nuclear deterrence for its defence;
- US and Soviet strategy nuclear weapons could be reduced by 50%;
- but there is no question of involving the British and French nuclear deterrents;
- nor is there any case for negotiations to reduce short-range nuclear weapons in Europe until we have got rid of the vast Soviet preponderance in chemical and conventional weapons;
- meanwhile we must do everything possible to strengthen the unity of NATO. The NATO Summit in early March will be an important signal of our determination;
- also a fitting tribute to President Reagan - who has done so much for NATO - in his last year of office.

e.D.!

CHARLES POWELL

20 January 1988

VC3AUY

1. MR INGHAM <sup>h</sup>
2. PRIME MINISTER

### YOUR INTERVIEWS WITH AMERICAN NETWORKS

You are to give four short (5-6 minutes each) interviews to the main American breakfast television networks tomorrow principally on INF/arms control.

All the networks intend to carry the interviews live on their breakfast programmes. The schedule is therefore tight and, as in the USA, you will move from one interviewer to the next in the Pillared Room.

The schedule is as follows:

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| <u>11.45-11.50:</u> | <u>NBC</u> Interviewer: <u>Henry Champ</u>   |
| <u>11.52-11.57:</u> | <u>ABC Good Morning American</u> Interviewer: <u>Charles Gibson</u> (the programme's host, who is coming over specially from the US) |
| <u>12.00-12.05:</u> | <u>CNN</u> Interviewer: <u>John Donovan</u>  |
| <u>12.11-12.16:</u> | <u>CBS</u> Interviewer: <u>Tom Fenton</u>  |

We have allowed 40 minutes from 11am for briefing and make up. They will want you in place at 11.40 for the first interview, so I suggest you begin make up no later than 11.20.

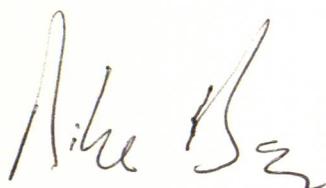
While the main purpose and interest is in INF/arms control, they may well broaden out if they have time to raise questions about Anglo-French and Franco-German cooperation, NATO and the prospects for the Euro Council.

The whole business of Official Secrets etc has attracted some interest in the USA, but I doubt whether it will come up. If it does, I think it is important to make the point that this is not an issue with the ordinary citizen in Britain. He knows that a security service should remain secure and he rather takes the view that the Government is elected to govern Britain, not the media and you don't intend to abdicate your responsibilities to the media. This will go down well with the ordinary people in the USA, too.

Interviewers I have spoken to regard such domestic concerns as the NHS as impossibly parochial. But there is just a chance that the odd question will be thrown in about the Middle East, on which you are well briefed.

Substantive briefing from Charles Powell on INF/arms control is attached.

Content?

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike Bates".

**MICHAEL BATES**  
Press Office  
21 January 1988

MR. INGHAM

1/2 Bates

Roffman  
in New York

cc Mrs. Gaisman

h

The Prime Minister has agreed to do brief interviews with the four American TV networks on the INF Treaty on Friday 22 January. Mrs. Gaisman has reserved some space in the diary. I should be grateful if the Press Office could make the necessary arrangements.

CDI

C. D. POWELL

18 December 1987

Notes

Tessa has several affairs all of Friday afternoon, 22 January

breakfast - live  
 NBC  
 Today (Meda Plomsi)  
 Good Morning America  
 (Paul Cleveland)  
 6/1  
 News (Sethan)  
 (Peter Honey)  
 CBS  
 CNN  
 Terry Lichtstein  
 637 9222  
 22460

noted in  
diary  
13/1/88

copies to Mrs Gaisman  
Mr Powell  
Mr Ingham

PRIME MINISTER

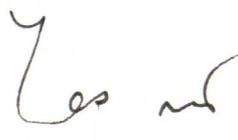
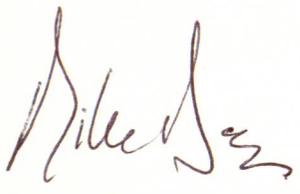
AMERICAN TELEVISION INTERVIEWS

You have agreed to do brief interviews with the four American TV Networks on the INF Treaty on Friday 22 January.

To have most impact (and avoid the possibility of editing) I recommend that you aim to give "live" interviews for the Breakfast programmes. This would mean beginning the interviews at 11.45, until 12.15/12.30. A slot has been reserved in the diary from 11.00 for briefing. You would also need make-up.

You were provisionally slated to give an interview to the French weekly "L'Express" at 12.00 on that day (with the American interviews provisionally scheduled for the afternoon) as a forerunner to the Anglo-French Summit.

Agree to do the American interviews live late morning and the French interview at, say, 2.30-3.00pm?



MICHAEL BATES  
Press Office  
12 January 1988

c: Mr Norgrove

MR POWELL

INF AGREEMENT

Reference correspondence with Michael Alexander/Brian Fall.

I would like the Prime Minister to give the four US networks, BBC, ITN and IRN short news interviews on the outcome of the Summit.

It so happens I already have a request from CBS for an interview during the Summit which I would not normally recommend.

If, as you say, the INF agreement comes early in the Summit, with more to follow, we could cope with that by means of a written statement to be followed by interviews of the kind advocated above when the Prime Minister knows the full outcome.

The truth is that we shall be inundated with requests for reactions, and since it is in her (and the West's interest) to react we ought to respond at the earliest effective moment.

This also raises questions, which Mr Norgrove will wish to consider, over whether the Prime Minister should make herself available for some interviews when a Budget cuts package is announced, or whether the Chancellor should react. David may care to discuss.

~~BT~~  
N. Douglas  
N. Douglas  
to Mr M

*[Handwritten signature]*

**BERNARD INGHAM**  
18 November 1987

I have discussed with the Treasury & agreed that the Chancellor should be met in front, in the first instance at least. They have put in hand contingency work for lines to take etc. (We shall have to welcome whichever comes next. It is just a matter of the time.)

*[Handwritten initials]*  
19/11/87