

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEWS WITH BBC TV SCOTLAND AND GRAMPIAN TV AT THE END
OF SCOTTISH TOUR

There will be two television interviews at the end of your visit to the Stakis Earl Grey Hotel, Dundee tomorrow. The interviews will be with BBC TV Scotland and Grampian TV and will take place in the hotel.

BBC TV SCOTLAND will want to ask you:

1. Fords - Could not the Government have played a bigger role in trying to persuade Fords to change their minds about Dundee?
2. Community Charge - Is it not unfair to the large, poor families? Opinion poll has shown that 40 per cent would favour a non-payment campaign.
3. Scottish Assembly - 75 per cent of Scots want some form of Scottish Assembly, with only 10 Conservative MPs in Scotland, would not an Assembly be a better way to reflect the views of the voters?
4. Health - (if there is time) is it fair that hospitals should be forced to put various services out to competitive tendering?

On FORDS you can express deep concern about the loss of the factory to Dundee as it would have provided initially over 400 jobs and could eventually have led to an extra 1,000 jobs being found for the people of Dundee. It was even more disappointing as the Government had spent 18 months convincing Ford that Scotland was the best place in Europe for the factory against fierce competition from, among others, the Republic of Ireland, France and Spain.

Critical to the Ford decision was the single-union agreement and all that was needed was for the whole of the trade union movement to throw its weight behind the Dundee deal once the Government had done its job.

The Government want Ford in Dundee. We are fully committed to the project and all the help, financial and otherwise, previously

on offer is still available. The future of the project hinges on the trade unions putting their house in order. The Government has done all it can do by persuading Ford that Dundee was the place for them. Certain trade unions have to bear a very heavy responsibility for Ford not coming to Dundee and depriving the city of much needed jobs.

On the COMMUNITY CHARGE you can say that the consequences of non-payment are clear. Local authorities would find themselves in a very difficult financial situation, unable to provide decent services for local people. In addition, their non-payment stance would lead to severe financial difficulties for many individuals in Scotland because of the fines they would have to pay for breaking the law.

Following revaluation in Scotland in 1985, the outcry from domestic ratepayers for a change in the system was enormous. The community charge spreads the same local burden much more widely over all the adults who use the services and is much fairer. For those on low incomes there will be the protection of the rebate scheme, and the very poorest will have account taken of the minimum contribution (20 per cent) in the level of the income support which they receive.

On a SCOTTISH ASSEMBLY you can say that devolution was not a major issue at last year's General Election campaign. And a MORI poll published earlier this month showed that only 7 per cent of those interviewed considered devolution to be among the most important issues facing Scotland.

On COMPETITIVE TENDERING IN HOSPITALS you can deplore the action being taken by the trade unions as they are putting their patients in jeopardy. It is affecting patient care in Scotland, both through inadequate levels of cover for certain services and the loss of almost 2,500 operations. The Government's policy of competitive tendering for ancillary services is already providing in England considerable savings which can be used to improve patient care.

GRAMPIAN TELEVISION will also ask you about Fords and some of the above issues.

OTHER POINTS YOU COULD MAKE DURING THE INTERVIEW include:

- you have just opened a new hotel which has provided 130 jobs.
- you announced this afternoon a new £4 million biotechnology venture by Shield Diagnostics to build a 40,000 sq ft complex on the City's Technology Park for research, development and manufacture of medical diagnostic kits. Over the next four years this will provide another 300 new jobs in Dundee.

- The Whitfield Housing Estate in Dundee has been chosen as the location for one of the major new initiatives on urban policy announced by Malcolm Rifkind yesterday. This initiative will tackle economic, social, housing and environmental problems. This is good news for Dundee.
- And earlier today when in Inverclyde you announced a new Enterprise Zone for the area covering about 260 acres of mainly derelict land in Greenock and Port Glasgow. The cost to the Government of developing the zone will be about £25m.
- Dundee is a development area and qualifies for the full range of regional aid. Regional selective assistance offered since May 1979 amounts to £15.7 million, associated with the creation of safeguarding of 4,900 jobs.
- Unemployment in Dundee has fallen by 2.5 per cent in the past year - February to February - from 16.9 per cent to 14.4 per cent.
- The Government has demonstrated its commitment to bringing new life to Scotland's urban areas and a positive and constructive partnership with the private sector and the local communities.

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29 MARCH 1988