

PRIME MINISTER

c Mr Ingham

VISIT OF THE HUNGARIAN PRIME MINISTER

The Hungarian Prime Minister is here next week and will have talks and dinner with you on Thursday.

The Hungarians have asked very late in the day whether you would do a television interview. It is really very difficult next week which is terribly busy. The only possibility might be immediately after your talks with Mr. Grosz which end at 1800, with the next engagement dinner at 1945.

If you did it then, there would be two options:

- a straightforward interview of 15/20 minutes; or
- you and Mr. Grosz might be interviewed jointly. This would be a novelty, but could appeal in Hungary.

I would not want to press you on this.

Agree no television interview?

OR

✓ Agree short interview on your own?

OR

Agree short interview with Mr. Grosz.

*Whips Room
lyn Parker?*

CHARLES POWELL

27 April 1988

VC4AWW

PRIME MINISTER

cc. Mr. Ingham ✓

INTERVIEW WITH HUNGARIAN TV

You have agreed to do a brief interview with Hungarian TV immediately after your meeting with Mr. Grosz tomorrow. The interviewer is Mr. Aczel, who interviewed you at the time of your visit to Hungary four years ago.

Points which you will want to get across are:

- your warm memories of your visit to Hungary;
- the degree to which the relations between Britain and Hungary have blazed a trail for improved East/West relations on a wider scale. We have been an example to others;
- both countries have approached their relationship on a realistic basis, not trying to detach each other from their respective alliances and loyalties;
- the important role played in these relations by personal contacts and your desire to see these further enlarged. You should mention your gratitude for the help which so many British children have received from the Peto Institute for Conductive Education;
- our interest in and sympathetic support for the political and economic reforms being pursued in Hungary. We shall be willing to support Hungary in its negotiations with the IMF for a stand-by arrangement;
- the importance you attach to Mr. Grosz's visit, the first by a Hungarian Prime Minister since the War. You will want to give a brief account of the subjects discussed;

- your admiration for the way in which Hungary is working out its own solutions to its problems;
- our consistent support for an agreement between Hungary and the EC;
- your views on the Gorbachev phenomenon, conveying some sense of excitement at the changes which could be in prospect in the Soviet Union and their implications for Eastern Europe.

Some fuller briefing by the FCO is attached.

CDP

4 May, 1988.

JD3BJL