

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH USA TODAY

Prime Minister ①
Perhaps we could have
a brief word shortly
before the interview.

You have agreed to give an interview to the above newspaper. This will take place tomorrow afternoon at 4.30 pm. The interviewer will be Mr Allan H Neuharth, Founder and Chairman of USA Today, who has for some months now been trying to get an interview with you for a series he is running on world leaders. end
30/8

He has reported on conversations with 26 heads of nations, including President Mitterrand and Chancellor Kohl. He is running a special report on the UK on 2 September and your interview with Mr Neuharth will also be carried in the organisation's 89 other daily newspapers.

Mr Neuharth, who will be accompanied by David Massorelli, President of Gannett, the parent company, will ask you the following questions:

- An assessment of the present state of US-UK relations, including any major issues requiring resolution.
- Implications for the UK and other Western powers of the new state of understanding between the US and USSR. Desired next steps.
- Advice to the next US President in dealing with (a) the Soviet Union, and (b) the Western Alliance.
- An assessment of President Reagan's legacy in the US. The legacy the Prime Minister would like to have in the UK.
- Advantages to the UK of a more economically integrated Europe 1992.
- The probability of a politically unified Europe and how the Prime Minister feels about that prospect.
- Prospects for a settlement of the Northern Ireland problem.

Content for photographs to be taken before the interview?

T. J. P.

TERRY J PERKS
Deputy Press Secretary

30 August 1988

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--TERRY PERKS

ATTN. TERRY PERKS:

I WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF YOUR OFFICE WOULD RELAY THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO THE PRIME MINISTER. THANK YOU.

A. NEUHARTH

*I will do - but
this is NOT the
time for
prophecy. not*

Prime Minister

*You have declined this
in the past. Our offer
of a written Q & A has
not been taken up.
But you should see this
final plea. There would
be some time next week if
you changed your mind -
but I would not press you
to do so.*

AUGUST 25, 1988

THE RIGHT HONORABLE MARGARET THATCHER
PRIME MINISTER
C/O TERRY PERKS
10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON, ENGLAND

DEAR PRIME MINISTER THATCHER:

I MET TODAY WITH PRIME MINISTER MULRONEY IN OTTAWA. WE SPOKE OF OUR COUNTRIES' COMMON HERITAGE AND HIS COMMENTS WILL APPEAR FOR OVER 5 MILLION READERS IN USA TODAY THIS WEEKEND. HE SPOKE OF YOU IN SEVERAL INSTANCES. THIS PERSUADED ME TO MAKE THIS FINAL APPEAL TO YOU TO PERMIT ME TO MEET YOU IN CONNECTION WITH MY WORLDWIDE NEWSGATHERING JOURNEY.

*COPIES
26/P*

WE HAVE NOW REPORTED ON CONVERSATIONS WITH 26 HEADS OF NATIONS, INCLUDING PRESIDENT MITTERRAND AND CHANCELLOR KOHL. THE AMERICAN PEOPLE HOLD YOU IN PARAMOUNT RESPECT AND INTEREST AS LEADER OF THE USA'S CLOSEST ALLY.

THE COMPREHENSIVE REPORT WE WILL RUN ON THE UNITED KINGDOM IN USA TODAY AND OUR OTHER 89 DAILY NEWSPAPERS NEEDS YOUR DIRECTLY SPOKEN VIEWS ON WORLD AND ALLIANCE AFFAIRS.

AS STATED IN MY LETTER TO YOU OF JULY 20, THE U.K. REPORT WILL APPEAR ON SEPTEMBER 2. THUS I HOPE AN INFORMAL CONVERSATION TAKING NO MORE THAN THIRTY MINUTES CAN BE ARRANGED BETWEEN NOW AND SEPTEMBER 1. WE CAN MEET WITH YOU AT YOUR CONVENIENCE ANYWHERE AND ANY TIME.

WITHOUT IT, MILLIONS OF READERS IN THE USA WILL BE DEPRIVED OF AN OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR DIRECTLY FROM THE LEADER OF THEIR MOTHER COUNTRY.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PATIENT CONSIDERATION.

SINCERELY YOURS,

ALLEN H. NEUHARTH
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