

SW2AOH

cc Mr. Ingham

Press
2/1/1988
02155

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH BEELD

You have agreed to give an interview to the influential Afrikaans newspaper Beeld and the editor is coming on Tuesday.

He has submitted a number of questions in advance and I attach answers to them, which contain a good deal of material from Mr. Renwick.

If you agree, it seems to me it would be best to give Beeld these written answers, which can be published as they stand. The actual face-to-face interview can then be shorter and more general.

Content for these answers to be given to Beeld in advance?

(C. D. POWELL)
25 November 1988

Mike
Do you want
to keep these

Anne

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NT CF



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

24 November 1988

GM 25/xi

Dear Charles,

our press

Prime Minister's interview with "Beeld"

Your letter of 23 August confirmed the Prime Minister's willingness to be interviewed by Mr Wepener, editor of the Afrikaans newspaper "Beeld". The interview has been fixed for 1700 hours on 29 November.

As promised, the editor has provided a list of his major questions in advance. I enclose these, together with some suggestions by Mr Renwick in Pretoria which the Prime Minister may care to take in reply. Indeed, there might be advantage in giving Mr Wepener written replies, so that the interview can be kept more general.

We understand that Mr Wepener may also ask a question about the Falklands.

Yours ever,

L Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
PS/No 10 Downing Street

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10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

26 August 1988

Mrs Gausman

29 Nov

1700 hrs

INTERVIEW WITH BEELD

Thank you for your letter of 23 August about the request for an interview with the Prime Minister from the Afrikaans newspaper Beeld. The Prime Minister is ready to grant an interview. I think it would probably be better to aim for a date after the US election. I will ask the diary secretary to get in touch with you to discuss possible times in mid-November.

(C. D. POWELL)

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Bates
To make
M
30/8

~~Mr Peirce~~



10 DOWNING STREET

LONDON SW1A 2AA

26 August 1988

From the Private Secretary

INTERVIEW WITH BEELD

Thank you for your letter of 23 August about the request for an interview with the Prime Minister from the Afrikaans newspaper Beeld. The Prime Minister is ready to grant an interview. I think it would probably be better to aim for a date after the US election. I will ask the diary secretary to get in touch with you to discuss possible times in mid-November.

(C. D. POWELL)

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr Bates
TO note
M
30/8



~~Mr Peirce.~~

Press

10 DOWNING STREET

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From the Private Secretary

26 August 1988

INTERVIEW WITH BEELD

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(C. D. POWELL)

R. N. Peirce, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Miles

- Renwick has a copy of his wife's
note from C.A.

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'578

Press

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MDHIAN 0220

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FM PRETORIA
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 188
OF 121225Z AUGUST 88

SOUTH AFRICA : REQUEST FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER FROM
THE EDITOR OF 'BEELD'

1. THE EDITOR OF THE LEADING AFRIKAANS NEWSPAPER 'BEELD' HAS APPROACHED ME TO ASK IF THERE IS ANY CHANCE OF THE PRIME MINISTER AGREEING TO AN INTERVIEW IN OCTOBER OR NOVEMBER. THE PURPOSE WOULD BE TO GET THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ACROSS TO THE WIDEST POSSIBLE AFRIKANER AUDIENCE. THE CIRCULATION OF 'BEELD' CURRENTLY IS AROUND 100,000, OUTSTRIPPING THAT OF THE OTHER AFRIKAANS DAILIES.
2. WE KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH WEPENER AND HIS STAFF AND 'BEELD' OF LATE HAS CARRIED SOME COURAGEOUS EDITORIALS CRITICISING THE SLOW PACE OF REFORM. IT CAUSED SOMETHING OF A SENSATION RECENTLY WITH A STRONG EDITORIAL CALLING FOR MANDELA'S RELEASE AND THE REFUSAL OF THE EDITOR TO BACK DOWN IN THE FACE OF GOVERNMENT PRESSURE. WEPENER IS NO LIBERAL, BUT A MAINSTREAM AFRIKANER FIGURE. HE IS RATHER RESERVED IN MANNER, BUT A THOUGHTFUL AND SERIOUS MAN. HE WILL BE GOING TO THE UNITED STATES TO COVER THE PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION BETWEEN 27 OCTOBER AND 10 NOVEMBER AND HOPES THAT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO SECURE AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER BEFORE OR AFTER THOSE DATES. HE WOULD GIVE NOTICE OF THE QUESTIONS HE INTENDS TO RAISE IN ADVANCE.
3. I HOPE THAT, DESPITE ALL THE PRESSURES ON HER TIME, THE PRIME MINISTER MIGHT CONSIDER AGREEING TO THIS. IT WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT VEHICLE TO GET A FIRM MESSAGE ACROSS HERE.
4. THE PRIME MINISTER HAS AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO GIVE AN INTERVIEW TO BLACK JOURNALISTS FROM SOUTH AFRICA AND THERE IS KEEN INTEREST IN THIS ON THE PART OF THE EDITOR OF THE 'SOWETAN'. I SHALL BE MAKING SEPARATELY SUGGESTIONS ON POSSIBLE TIMING FOR SUCH AN INTERVIEW.

RENWICK

YYYY

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ADDITIONAL 4

PS TO PM

MR POWELL NO 10 DOWNING ST

NNNN