

Mr Ingham

Prime Minister

I wish let you have a
brief on the evening
of Dec. 28.

John 22/12

cc Mr Powell

I eventually tracked down David Frost in New York. The re-arranged time for his interview is at 10.15am on Friday 30 December. He will fly in from New York on an overnight flight.

His questions will be as follows:

Future of British politics; future of the Conservative Party and the Labour Party; the Prime Minister's initiative on the Environment; Northern Ireland; the role of Government/Private Sector towards a kinder, gentler Britain.

On Northern Ireland he will be asking the Prime Minister how she sees the future; what are the prospects for peace. He will also want to go into some detail with the Prime Minister about the restrictions on reporting and the right to silence. He says that it will be important for the Prime Minister to give a "child's guide" on these two issues as even the more intelligent Americans have great difficulty in understanding the reasons. Some are appalled by these restrictions and keep quoting to him the fifth amendment.

On the role of the Government/Private sector he will be asking the Prime Minister the role each has to play in our society today, particularly about who is going to be responsible for the needy in Britain in the future. Can the private sector really takeover the needs of the needy; where should the line be drawn between Government and the private sector in giving help to those really in need, or indeed should the private sector even have a role to play. Should it not be the Government who has the responsibility for caring for the needy?

The second category of questions are:

Future of the rest of the world; where is the world going with regard to nuclear weapons, disarmament and peace; is the Cold War over; defence; terrorism; the future for a United Europe; budget deficits; the next move in the Middle East vis-a-vis Iran/Terry Waite; South Africa; Japan; and the Prime Minister's impressions of Reagan and Gorbachev.

On defence he will ask the Prime Minister about the strategy and thinking of defence policy over the next decade; are we going

to see a new generation of conventional weapons before the year 2000 or will the UK be reducing its numbers?

On terrorism he will ask the Prime Minister about the problems facing the world because of terrorists; what the world should be doing to fight terrorism; and how will Britain defeat the IRA.

On Europe he will be asking how the Prime Minister sees its development over the next 10 years; what she would like to see happening and what changes she would like to make.

On the Budget deficit he will be referring to the problems facing Mr Bush when he takes over as President and how does the Prime Minister think he will tackle the deficit and why a solution has to be found.

He will be asking the Prime Minister what the world can do with regard to South Africa and have her own views about sanctions changed over the years.

On Japan he will be asking for her views about the growing economic strength of this country and what effect it might have on the economy of the USA.

David Frost will also ask the Prime Minister about her personal philosophy and priorities and what has been the most character forming experience of her life. He might also discuss with the Prime Minister the Pan Am disaster, linking it to others in recent weeks, asking her that if there is a loving God why does he let these tragedies occur.

T.J.P.

Terry J Perks
23 December 1988