

CCB/JP

PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH "CHAT" MAGAZINE

You are to give an interview to "Chat" magazine tomorrow morning. This is a woman's weekly tabloid with a readership of 1.5 million. It covers fashion, beauty, cookery, show business stories, news and features.

Much of the interview will be about litter and the environment and the editor, Ms Terry Tavner, who will be interviewing you, intends to launch a public clean-up campaign aimed at individuals assuming responsibility for their environment. Ms Tavner says she would like to see the campaign assume a role of education whereby we start at our own back doors and rise to the problems relating to the ozone layer.

A list of the questions and briefing are attached.

Content for photographs to be taken in the White Room before the interview?

Content for the interview to be in the Study?

T.J.P.

TERRY J PERKS  
14 February 1989

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PRIME MINISTER

INTERVIEW WITH "CHAT" MAGAZINE

*Ray I have  
the Doc paraphrased on Shirley  
page - get half-way down*

You have agreed to give an interview to "Chat" magazine on Wednesday morning. The questions in the main will concentrate on the environment and the article will be published before the international conference at the beginning of March.

I will provide you with additional briefing before the interview.

Content for photographs to be taken in the White Room before the interview?

Content for the interview to be in The Study?

The questions that the editor, Ms Terry Tavner, will put to you are as follows:

1. The streets of Britain are a disgrace. How can the people make a start on their immediate environment; what incentive can we give people to make them responsible for their own patch?
2. Can the Government and local councils play an active part to encourage a cleaner environment?
3. Most people are aware that Britain is labelled "the dumping ground of Europe"; does the Government have any immediate plans to clean up toxic waste? If industry is seen to care for the environment, would individuals be more inclined to follow suit?
4. What aspect of pollution worries you most?
5. How soon can all cars be converted to lead-free petrol? Couldn't the oil companies play their part by making lead-free petrol the norm, rather than installing an isolated pump in a small percentage of garages?
6. Were you aware of your environment as a child and what can be done to educate the children of today?
7. How have your personal habits changed since you have been in power - ie hairspray, deodorant, make-up?

8. There seems to be a general apathy in the British people's approach to their environment. As we are a nation of avid TV-soap watchers, could Coronation Street, Brookside, Eastenders be encouraged to do more to preach the message?

9. What is the biggest single change you would like to see by the year 2000?

10. Is there a role for conservation groups like Greenpeace and Friends of the Earth to combine forces with the Government and tackle the problems we face together rather than separately?

11. National scares - such as toxins in nappies, salmonella and listeria - are the cause of much concern to the British people. Does the Government intend to introduce tighter controls on industry to prevent such health and environmental risks?

T. J. P.

Terry J Perks  
10 February 1989

## TIDY BRITAIN GROUP

1. You launched this group almost a year ago and in December the Government announced that it would make a £3 million grant for 1989-90 to complete their 16 pilot projects.

2. The Government believes that the time is ripe to build on and intensify efforts to persuade everyone in the country that our environment is worth protecting from litter.

3. Since the launch of the campaign last March numerous groups around the country have come together in an effort to rid our towns, cities and countryside of litter.

4. We need to encourage all sections of the community to help so that being a litter lout will mean being unacceptable company to friends.

5. Some of our towns and cities are a disgrace because of the amount of litter that is thrown down. Do people behave like this in their homes. Some treat our streets as rubbish dumps and then complain when they look like tips. It is just thoughtlessness on their part? It is surprising what is thrown out of the windows of cars, vans and lorries. It would hurt no one to take their litter home with them or place it in a litter basket when they next stop. People should take pride in their community.

6. Some blame the fast food centres where people buy hamburgers etc and then throw the wrapping on the streets. But at least one of them (MacDonalds) are very litter conscious and in fact send staff out around the immediate vicinity of their centres picking up litter.

7. Litter attracts litter and clean places remain clean. People respect what is respectable. We can all help by making sure that the areas around where we live are kept litter free. The desire for clean and tidy public places already exists. What people want to know is how the majority who want the country to be clean can ensure that their wish prevails.

8. The task is not one which can be achieved easily or quickly but all of us have an important part to play. Cooperation is needed and I am pleased to say that a number of businesses and organisations throughout the country are playing an active part in trying to get the message across. But at the end of the day it is up to the individual to make sure we have a clean and tidy Britain.

## ENVIRONMENT

1. The state of the environment, both national and international, is very much at the forefront of people's minds and the Government has demonstrated its concern to protect the environment consistently over the last 10 years. There is a very large programme of environmental measures already in hand.

2. In June of last year we agreed a new European Community Directive establishing significant new standards to deal with acid rain emissions, entailing a 60 per cent cut in 1980 levels sulphur emissions from power stations by 2003. This will involve significant further effort over and above the existing CEEB £1 billion investment programme.

3. In September 1987 we signed the Montreal Protocol which calls for a 50 per cent cut in chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) by 2000 and other measures to protect the ozone layer. We are currently calling for an 85 per cent cut in CFCs world-wide to take effect as soon as possible.

4. We are actively encouraging the introduction and use of unleaded fuel. From October 1990 all new vehicles will have to be able to run on unleaded fuel.

5. There are now over 3,000 petrol stations (about 25%) selling unleaded petrol and the number is rising by about 60 a week. Tremendous strides have been made when you think that 6 months ago there were only 500 petrol stations selling unleaded petrol.

6. We are implementing in full the major package of measures to protect the marine environment agreed at the 2nd North Sea Conference chaired by Nicholas Ridley in November 1987.

7. Protection of the water environment is also a task to which considerable resources are being devoted. Total investment by the water authorities, which has increased by over 40 per cent since 1980, now stands at an annual level of over £1 billion and is set to go on rising. Within this total £70 million is being spent each year on improving the quality of coastal bathing waters.

8. The threat of global climate changes and its consequences give rise to perhaps the greatest environmental challenge of all and the UK is playing its full part in leading the international scientific effort to establish an adequate understanding of the problem.

## DIOXINS IN DISPOSABLE PAPER PRODUCTS

The risks from dioxins in disposable paper products were highlighted in Monday's "World in Action" programme which claimed an analysis showing levels of 100-400 parts per trillion of dioxins in products such as paper nappies.

A very small quantity of dioxin is produced when wood pulp is bleached with chlorine, and very small quantities may remain in the final product. The Chief Medical Officer's view is that on present knowledge these levels are most unlikely to pose any hazard to health.

The Department of Health's Committee on Toxicity (which includes independent academics, consultants and those active in clinical medicine and medical research as well as industry) is due to report to Government shortly on the potential human health hazards of dioxins, and the Department will want the Committee's advice to hand before making a definitive statement.

In the meantime the Department of Trade and Industry is seeking more information from the suppliers about residual final dioxin levels in certain consumer products. Some manufacturers of disposable nappies (Procter and Gamble and Peau Douce) have already gone over to unbleached products for their own commercial reasons, and other manufacturers are expected to follow.

## TOXIC WASTE

1. The Government has undertaken a comprehensive review of legislation governing waste disposal, including toxic waste disposal. Our existing system is basically sound, but twelve years experience has shown how it can be further improved.

2. The key points announced on 29 June 1988 are:-

- (a) a duty of care on producers to ensure safe disposal;
- (b) registration of waste carriers;
- (c) tougher disposal site licensing conditions, including an obligation on the licensee to monitor and maintain the site until there is no risk of pollution.

We shall introduce legislation on these points within the lifetime of this Parliament.

3. Further proposals to improve the performance of waste disposal authorities were published for consultation on 24 January.

4. The Government does not object to imports of waste which come here from reputable sources for specialised chemical or physical treatment or incineration. We have good facilities, and it would be wrong to deny their use to other countries which cannot deal with the wastes safely. But we give short shrift to waste which has not been properly packaged or documented, as we did with the Karin B. We have taken the lead in Europe in bringing into force, in November 1988, tight regulations on the transfrontier shipment of hazardous waste.