

Mr. Ingham  
CN

PRIME MINISTER

ARMENIAN TV

The Foreign Office say that a crew from Armenian TV are in this country putting together a film about Britain's contribution to Armenia to assist the recovery from the earthquake. They are concentrating on this issue and are not concerned with the nationalities or political questions.

Understandably, in advance of your visit to Moscow, the FCO think your contribution to their film would be invaluable and lend topicality to it.

We would get a briefing from the FCO on what you might say if you agreed to speak to the Armenian camera for a few minutes.

The only possible time is at the end of your engagements with the Japanese media and BBC on Friday. The timing is tight but you could squeeze the Armenians in.

Content to give Armenian TV a maximum of five minutes on Friday at the end of your session with the Japanese media and BBC Breakfast TV?

If they want it - I will do just 5 minutes.

Prime Minister

I wonder whether we haven't run our contribution to Armenia for as much as its worth already. I doubt this deserves high priority.

**BERNARD INGHAM**  
September 13, 1989

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*cepress.aff*  
PC.

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

14 September 1989

*Jean Charles,*

Prime Minister's interview with Armenian Television:  
15 September

The Prime Minister has agreed to give an interview to Armenian Television tomorrow. They are here under sponsorship of "Aid Armenia" to make a programme on the British response to the earthquake. They have no specific questions to put to the Prime Minister. They propose to start the ball rolling with a general remark about the interdependent "family of man" and then let the Prime Minister say what she wishes. They are aware that she has only a few minutes for them and regard that format as better value for their viewers than something more structured.

The interview will offer a good opportunity to highlight - on the eve of the Prime Minister's stopover in Moscow - our commitment to helping with Armenia's reconstruction and our support for perestroika. The key points which the Prime Minister may want to get across are:

- the Armenian earthquake produced a magnificent and generous response from the British public, nearly doubling the £5 million given by the Government. Cash and relief supplies flooded in spontaneously from all over the country;
- apart from reflecting our sorrow at the terrible blow your people had suffered, this reflected the much warmer climate of East/West and Anglo/Soviet relations since Mr Gorbachev took office, and the British people's support for his policy of renewal and reconstruction. The tragedy meant his visit being postponed. But he could still feel the warmth of the British people's feelings as he launched the massive task of rescue and rebuilding;
- we greatly admire the determination and enterprise with which the Armenian people have gone about resurrecting their shattered towns and villages;
- HMG's main contribution to reconstruction is a school for 400 pupils being built at Leninakan. If all involved, Armenians and British, work as fast as possible it should be ready by next summer. If I can I would like to try to visit it when I come to the Soviet Union next June;
- I send my warm good wishes to the people of Armenia.



In the time available, this letter has not been seen by  
the Foreign Secretary in draft.

Yours ever, *Richard Gozney*

(R H T Gozney)  
Private Secretary

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