

PRIME MINISTER

WILLIAMSBURG - MEDIA

You should be aware of the arrangements made so far for dealing with the media on your visit to Williamsburg. This will be an intensely media occasion from your point of view, because of the election, and I would like your guidance in completing my arrangements.

First, before departure, Sir Robert Armstrong has already briefed those British journalists travelling to the Summit. You may well also be asked questions at the party press conferences.

You had agreed to see the American correspondents on the evening of May 25 immediately before leaving. You indicated that you would like to drop this from your programme.

*No* On the other hand, there remains a slot in your diary that evening; it is an opportunity for you to work yourself into the subject; and it will provide another publicity focus of a helpful kind, for I could get the British cameras and radio tapes in for a short opening statement (which the US radio and tv networks would very much like you to give). Moreover, the Association of American Correspondents has asked if you could keep the date.

Agree to see the American correspondents, supplemented by British TV cameras and microphones, on Wednesday evening, May 25?

No

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is also anxious to see economic correspondents on-the-record before departure. If you were to see the Americans on May 25 he might usefully see British correspondents two days later on the eve of the visit.

Content?

*Yes* (with arrows pointing to the 'Content?' and 'Departure' sections)

Departure

I would not see any particular advantage in speaking to the media before leaving Heathrow. They may well ask negative questions as they have been known to do in the past.



Consequently, agree only to photo facility (from behind bars) when you board the 'plane? (If you felt advantage you could say a few words in passing without getting trapped into an interview).

En Route

I expect to have on board 12-16 correspondents, though not as yet a TV camera. The correspondents have asked if they could have a chat with you on the 'plane and I have said I'm sure you will pop down to see them for 15-20 minutes.

Agree?

Yes

If we do get a cameraman on board I am sure it would be helpful to give them a little time working at a box or in a working situation.

Agree?

Yes

Arrival

Here I suggest you are simply seen to camera advantage; no interviews.

Agree?

Yes

Bilaterals

If at all possible, we ought to get as much film as possible back in this country of your various bilaterals, either before or after each of them. And I would strongly urge you to try to appear on the President's lawn with Mr Reagan if possible each saying a few words into the microphones, after that bilateral.

✓  
Agree in principle we try to maximise film coverage of bilaterals?

Departure

John Coles is pursuing with the White House the problem of squaring your saying a few words on departure with the rules. On the assumption that this is resolved, I suggest I arrange for BBC, ITN, IRN, Press Association and Jack Warden, chairman of the Lobby, representing other journalists, to see you for a short time immediately before you leave



Williamsburg. The occasion could take the nature of short news interviews of the kind you normally give, with a short opportunity for PA and Mr Warden to ask any supplementaries for press purposes.

Agree?

Return Journey

*I will discuss when you have a moment A.J.C. 14/5*

John is making these arrangements. I am being entirely vague about them. Indeed I have told the media that for security reasons they will get no briefing on how you will return let alone your flight number.

I think it would be a sensible precaution however if I flew with you to the point of embarkation whether or not I travel back. My only concern about your return journey is lest some journalists have by devious means got themselves on to your aircraft.

Arrival

*This is the plan. A.J.C. 14/5*

I would hope that arrangements could be made for you to be met on the tarmac with a car and transported straight to No 10. I shall however make arrangements for press officers to be both at Heathrow (where you are not likely to be pestered) and at No 10.

If you would like a picture facility on your return we could alert the British press once you are in the air. We would make it clear there would be only pictures, behind barriers, (no interviews) on touchdown.

It is of course most unwise to submit yourself to questions on your return from foreign parts, however briefly you have been away.

Content?

*Yes not*  
*Bush*

B. INGHAM

19 May 1983