

1. MR COLES - for comment
2. PRIME MINISTER

*I think we shall be able to set aside  
at least 50 minutes for the media at  
6.30 on Sunday. We shall have to leave  
at about 7.30. A.T.C. 25.*

#### PRESS CONFERENCE IN WILLIAMSBURG

I need to take your mind on the timing of your press conference for British journalists before you leave Williamsburg.

Your programme is extremely full and there is the usual additional problem in the United States of British deadlines being 5 hours ahead.

At present there is 30 minutes in your Sunday schedule at 6.30pm USA time (11.30pm London time) for a press conference. This is of course tight given that you also wish to give interviews to BBC, ITN and IRN.

That timing would not get you much coverage in the Monday press (all of which are publishing, apart from the FT, notwithstanding the Bank Holiday). You would also miss the evening TV news bulletins - 9.45 (ITN) and 9.55 (BBC). But you would of course get breakfast and lunchtime TV on Monday and the Monday morning news programmes, including the Today programme.

During the Summit we shall of course try to maximise picture opportunities and there should be no shortage of film or news coverage of your activities.

Your options are constrained by the fact that the whole of Sunday afternoon will be taken up by discussions to 5.00pm, after which there is a drafting session for the final statement (which President Reagan apparently would like you to attend); and then an hour's bilateral with Mitterrand.

On the assumption that you would not wish to see the British media before you have at least a feel for the outcome of the discussions, the possibilities are:

- leave the Sunday afternoon plenary session from 4.00pm to brief the media and do radio and TV before the drafting session at 5.00pm; this would increase newspaper coverage and with a bit of luck achieve the evening TV news programmes;

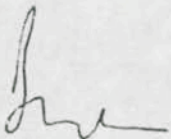
But would you feel happy about leaving a session, bearing in mind your abbreviated attendance at the Summit, and missing the discussion on <sup>part of</sup> the US economic thematic paper and East/West economic relations?

- stick to the 6.30pm scheduled time for press conference and radio and TV, accepting that this will minimise newspaper coverage and miss evening TV programmes.

If you agree to the latter there is however one thing I might do to help increase your coverage:

- to feed out some clear guidance on your view of the achievement of the conference after the drafting session and before you go into the bilateral with Mitterrand, if not earlier?

Agree to stick with the 6.30pm schedule and for me to give out some guidance as proposed above at 5.30pm or before if possible?



B. INGHAM

25 May 1983