

PRIME MINISTER

Both the Chancellor and the Foreign Secretary were interviewed on the lunchtime TV news about the leadership contest.

John Major was excellent, calm, unflustered, totally supportive and clear that you would win comfortably on the first ballot.

Douglas Hurd did not come out so well on the BBC interview. When asked if you would go on if there was a second ballot, he said "the Prime Minister has to decide these things. I hope and expect her not to have to". When asked if in such circumstances he would stand, he said "My basic position was made clear last week when I decided to nominate the Prime Minister". He came across much more strongly on ITV. Again asked about what his position would be on a second ballot, whether he would then stand, he said "I do not see that that would be in any way possible. I proposed the Prime Minister, and I stand absolutely by that". The BBC Radio on World At One carried a second-hand report alleging that Mr. Hurd had said that he agreed with a lot of what Sir Geoffrey Howe had said yesterday, but not with his conclusions.

DM

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