

MRP.  
PRIME MINISTER

Interpreters

I have made enquiries about food for the interpreters at today's lunch.

All except Mrs. Planinc's interpreter were given a sandwich meal before the lunch. Sandwiches were also offered to Mrs. Planinc's interpreter during the drinks session but she declined.

I well understand your concern that the interpreters should be properly looked after. But if we place an interpreter between you and your main guest we shall have one less outside guest at the main table. In addition, I am not sure that it is very easy for the interpreter both to interpret for two Prime Ministers and to eat a meal.

We could introduce a system whereby interpreters were automatically fed while the rest of the guests were having drinks before lunch. For the drinks session they would be replaced by one or two interpreters who had already eaten. Would you be content with this? Or do you want the main interpreter to be eating at your table?

A.J.C.

16 November 1983

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MRS GOODCHILD

Interpreters

The Prime Minister has agreed that in future we should ensure that any interpreters who had to be used during a meal here, and who have not eaten before the meal, should be given food during the pre-meal drinks - and at that time they would be replaced by one or two interpreters who had already eaten. There will be no change to the system whereby interpreters sit behind those for whom they are interpreting at the meal table.

Could you please ensure that this system is followed in future.

AJC

17 November 1983