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10 DOWNING STREET
LONDON SW1A 2AA

From the Private Secretary

3 March 1988

YUGOSLAV REQUEST FOR A TV INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER

Thank you for your letter of 2 March about the Yugoslav request for a television interview with the Prime Minister.

Before putting this to the Prime Minister, I need to know more about the line of questioning which will be pursued. We do not, for instance, want it to get into the subject of Waldheim. Also, it would have to be limited to a single interviewer. I should be grateful if you could establish whether these points could be settled satisfactorily.

(CHARLES POWELL)

Lyn Parker, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

FILE
SABKS
cc PC

A handwritten mark consisting of three vertical lines of varying heights, resembling a stylized 'A' or a signature.

D. Powell



We find not
decide until
we know some
questioning
(? Waldheim)

10 DOWNING STREET

And we should
not as and
me journalists.

Mr. Hyman

What do you think?
I don't like the
idea of journalists.
don

ack



Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

2 March 1988

Dear Charles,

Djuranovic Visit: Yugoslav Request for TV Interview
with the Prime Minister

The Yugoslavs have asked for a TV interview with the Prime Minister, in the context of the visit to London by Djuranovic, member of their Federal Presidency, on 22-25 March. Mr Wood in Belgrade has strongly recommended that an interview be granted, if possible before Djuranovic arrives (Belgrade telex 51, copy enclosed).

Para 2 of the telegram gives details of the three Yugoslav journalists who would conduct the interview. They are all competent, and speak excellent English. Mr Wood's para 3 explains the ground which would be covered.

One of our main objectives in inviting Djuranovic, as you know, is to persuade him that Yugoslavia needs more coherent and market-oriented economic policies. As Mr Wood says (para 5 of the telegram) a TV interview with the Prime Minister would be the ideal way of getting this message across to a wide audience in Yugoslavia. The Prime Minister's speech at her lunch for Djuranovic, which we hope will be published in Yugoslavia and of which I shall shortly be sending you a draft, will be an opportunity to do this. But a TV interview would greatly reinforce the impact. We therefore hope that the Prime Minister will agree.

If the Prime Minister is content and you can say what time would be convenient, we will ask Mr Wood, as he suggests, to explore in more detail what questions the journalists will wish to put, and will let you have some material on which replies might be based.

Yours ever,
L. Parker

(L Parker)
Private Secretary

C D Powell Esq
10 Downing Street

(for No 10)

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FM BELGRADE
TO IMMEDIATE FCO
TELNO 51
OF 010930Z MARCH 88

MY TELNO 45: DJURANOVIC VISIT

SUMMARY

1. YUGOSLAVS ASK FOR TV INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER AT THE TIME OF THE DJURANOVIC VISIT. A CHANCE TO PUT OUR VIEWS ACROSS I HOPE WE CAN SEIZE.

DETAIL

2. I HAVE BEEN ASKED WHETHER THE PRIME MINISTER WILL AGREE TO GIVE A TV INTERVIEW TO THREE YUGOSLAV JOURNALISTS REPRESENTING LJUBLJANA, ZAGREB AND BELGRADE TELEVISIONS AROUND THE TIME OF THE DJURANOVIC VISIT. THE IDEAL TIMING WOULD BE JUST BEFORE DJURANOVIC ARRIVED BUT THE JOURNALISTS WOULD OF COURSE ADJUST THEIR SCHEDULES TO SUIT THE PRIME MINISTER'S CONVENIENCE. THE INTERVIEWERS SUGGESTED ARE JURI GUSTINCIC, A FORMER POLITIKA CORRESPONDENT IN LONDON AND WASHINGTON AND A MAN OF VERY WIDE INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE, GORAN MILIC, THE ANCHORMAN OF THE CURRENT AFFAIRS PROGRAMME IN BELGRADE TV AND ZORAN BOSNJAK, FORMER CORRESPONDENT FOR VJESNIK IN WASHINGTON AND CURRENTLY CHIEF EDITOR OF START MAGAZINE WHOM THE OTHER TWO FEEL WOULD BE A USEFUL AS WELL AS ACUTE REPRESENTATIVE OF A YOUNGER GENERATION OF YUGOSLAVS. ALL THREE SPEAK FIRST CLASS ENGLISH.

3. THE TEAM WOULD HOPE IN THEIR QUESTIONS TO DEAL BRIEFLY WITH BILATERAL AFFAIRS AND THEN TO CONCENTRATE ON ECONOMIC AND EUROPEAN ISSUES PARTICULARLY, IN THE LATTER CONTEXT, ON HOW EUROPEAN INTEGRATION MAY EFFECT NON-EC COUNTRIES.

4. THE PUBLIC ASPECTS OF THE DJURANOVIC VISIT ARE PERHAPS AT LEAST AS IMPORTANT AS THE OPPORTUNITY OUR EXCHANGES WILL GIVE US TO GET OUR VIEWS THROUGH TO THE YUGOSLAV HIERARCHY. THIS WILL BE ALL THE MORE SO IN THE LIGHT OF PROBABLE PRESS TREATMENT HERE OF THE GORBACHEV VISIT BEGINNING 14 MARCH AND AT A DIFFICULT TIME IN IMF/ YUGOSLAV NEGOTIATIONS . IT WAS AGREED AT YOUR 1986 OFFICE MEETING FOLLOWING YOUR VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA THAT WE SHOULD TAKE EVERY OPPORTUNITY TO PROMOTE A WIDER UNDERSTANDING IN THIS COUNTRY OF BRITISH ATTITUDES. THERE IS WIDESPREAD ADMIRATION HERE FOR THE WAY WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO TURN OUR ECONOMIC FORTUNES AROUND AND THE PRIME

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MINISTER'S VIEWS CARRY PARTICULAR AUTHORITY. I THEREFORE VERY MUCH HOPE A WAY WILL BE FOUND TO MEET THE YUGOSLAV REQUEST, WHICH CARRIES, AS I UNDERSTAND IT, THE BLESSING OF THE NEW YUGOSLAV FOREIGN SECRETARY.

5. IF AGREEMENT IN PRINCIPLE TO THE INTERVIEW CAN BE GIVEN I SHALL EXPLORE IN MORE DETAIL WITH THE JOURNALISTS THE QUESTIONS THEY WILL WISH TO PUT AND WILL SUGGEST WAYS IN WHICH THEY MIGHT BE APPROACHED. IN THE MEANTIME HOWEVER I WOULD RECOMMEND THAT THE CENTRAL AXIS OF ANY INTERVIEW MIGHT BE TO GET ACROSS THE POINT THAT ALTHOUGH WE ARE CONCERNED AT THE WAY THINGS ARE GOING HERE IT IS UP TO THE YUGOSLAVS THEMSELVES TO TAKE EFFECTIVE ACTION BY ADOPTING A CLEAR HEADED APPROACH TO THEIR ECONOMIC PROBLEMS SO AS TO REGAIN THE CONFIDENCE OF CAPITAL MARKETS, AND THAT THIS IS ALSO ESSENTIAL FOR A STILL MORE PRODUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH THE EC. I SUGGESTED AN OVERALL APPROACH TO THE DJURANOVIC VISIT IN MY LETTER OF 8 FEBRUARY TO FIGGIS, EED. I HAVE NO DOUBT AN INTERVIEW WITH THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD GREATLY INCREASE THE IMPACT OF THE OCCASION. WITHOUT IT, COVERAGE HERE IS LIKELY TO BE BLAND, IF NOT COMPLACENT, IF ONLY BECAUSE THE MEDIA WILL BE DEPENDENT ON THEIR LONDON CORRESPONDENTS AND OFFICIAL ACCOUNTS.

WOOD

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ADDITIONAL 1

MR WICKS NO 10.

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