

PRIME MINISTER

1
c. Mr Ingham

250th ANNIVERSARY OF NO 10, DOWNING STREET

Bernard Ingham and I have now had a talk with Christopher Jones (who made The Palace of Westminster programmes) about a documentary to mark the 250th Anniversary of No 10. He has mentioned the idea to the Director General and other BBC top management who are enthusiastic about it.

They are at an early stage of planning, but they have asked some questions about which we need to guide them at the outset.

They have agreed to cover the building of Downing Street and the life and times of its builder; its development as the centre of the government; the people who have lived there (including some interviews with former Prime Ministers) and momentous events which took place especially during the two world wars.

They have also asked if they can show some "behind-the-scenes" shots of how No 10 works today, eg reception in the State rooms, a formal dinner, Ministers assembled for a meeting in the Cabinet room, your awaiting in the hall and then greeting a distinguished visitor, an occasion in the garden (perhaps the Commonwealth High Commissioners passing through for The Trooping of the Colour or the Private Secretaries' party). They have asked if they can show some of the staff at work to illustrate the range of

activities in the house; and whether you would agree to some shots of yourself and your family in the flat.

All this will have to be kept firmly under control, in terms both of security and of the amount of intrusion. Subject to this, Bernard and I would be grateful for your guidance as follows:-

i. Agree that they may take some shots of the workings of No 10 and specific occasions?

Bernard thinks I am being a bit stuffy about this.

ii. Refuse a proposal that they film the Cabinet but consider shots of Ministers assembled for a less formal meeting in the Cabinet room?

iii. Agree that they can have shots of some of the staff in ^{their offices} (eg the Garden rooms, Private Secretaries office) but no interviews? *Press office! Policy Unit*

iv. Would you be willing for them to take some shots of you and your family in the flat, eg on the lines of the photo of you working in the sitting room in Carol's book, or in the dining room?

Yes not

In the light of your views on these points, Bernard and I will guide the producer in drawing up more detailed plans.

F.R.B.

F E R BUTLER

25 January 1985