



## 10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

PERSONAL

28 January 1985

*Dear Mr. Jones,*

Thank you for your letter of 21 January. I am delighted that you and your senior colleagues at the BBC like the idea of a documentary about 10 Downing Street to mark its 250th anniversary. I set out below some reactions to the suggestions made in your letter so that you can take account of them in your planning. Once your own intentions are clearer, perhaps we could have a further meeting to undertake more detailed planning.

I am glad that you would want to cover the beginnings and the history of 10 Downing Street and famous events which have occurred here. In response to your suggestion that the programme should also cover the modern working of No 10, I have cleared with the Prime Minister that she would be content for the programme makers to be given facilities for this purpose, subject to the points below.

Above all, it would be important to ensure that the facilities given to the programme team should neither compromise security nor interfere unduly with the work of the Prime Minister's Office.

I am grateful to you for saying that you would co-operate fully with our experts over security. We will need to consider in our detailed planning the specific occasions which the programme makers might be allowed to film in order to illustrate the various facets of No 10 - at our earlier talk we mentioned as examples a reception in the State rooms, a formal dinner, preparations for receiving and the greeting of a distinguished visitor, the Trooping the Colour and the entertainment of the Commonwealth High Commissioners at it. But it would help enormously both with maintaining security and with minimising disruption if the team used to take these "behind the scenes"

Christopher Jones Esq

shots can be kept to the absolute minimum, and remain unchanged.

The Prime Minister does not rule out shots being taken of the staff of No 10 going about their various duties, but there should not be interviews with them about their work. The Prime Minister does not think it appropriate for a film to be taken of a meeting of the Cabinet, but she would agree to shots being taken of a more informal meeting of Ministers in the Cabinet Room.

The Prime Minister would also be willing, in principle, to allow some shots to be taken of the private life of herself and her family at No 10.

I would certainly be prepared to write a letter in due course to former Prime Ministers explaining that the Prime Minister has authorised you to make a programme about No 10 to commemorate its 250th anniversary, which may help you if you want to approach them and their wives for their memories of living here. Similarly, I would write to any other organisations or individuals whom you wish to approach.

No doubt you will want to consider this response to the points raised in your letter and, when you are ready, Mr Ingham and I will look forward to a further discussion to undertake more detailed planning.

I am copying this letter to Bernard Ingham.

*Yours sincerely,  
Robin Butler.*

F E R BUTLER



BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

PRESS GALLERY HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1  
TELEPHONE 01-222 9586 or 01-219 4765

14th February, 1984.

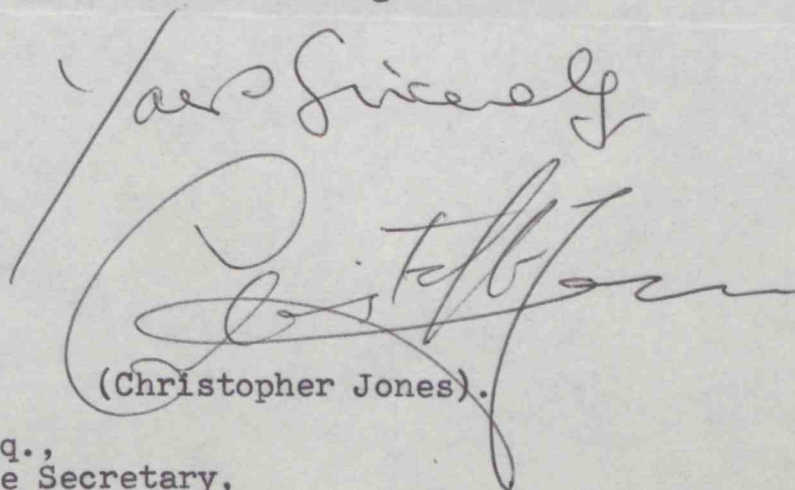
Dear Mr Butler,

I am very pleased to tell you that Mrs Jennie Barraclough, one of the BBC's most senior and successful programme makers, is to be the Director of the Downing Street project. I am quite certain that her great experience will prove immensely valuable in making the programme with the minimum of disturbance at No 10 and with the maximum use of our mutual resources.

I have discussed the programme at length with Mrs Barraclough and we would both be pleased if we could come and see you, and Mr Ingham, at your earliest possible convenience. The amount of work that has to be done if we are to be ready by the autumn is formidable, and we would hope to be able to discuss with you, as soon as possible, precise dates, times and places for filming.

Might I also then take up with you again the possibility of interviewing some members of the No 10 staff? If we are to operate on your excellent general principle of letting the public see No 10 through the camera's eye, their understanding would, as I am sure you will realise, be much restricted if they are also unable to hear from some of the people most involved with life and activities there. But perhaps this is one of the things we might talk about at our meeting.

I very much look forward to meeting you again. I will send a copy of this letter to Mr Ingham.

Yours sincerely  
  
(Christopher Jones).

F.E.R. Butler Esq.,  
Principal Private Secretary,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON SW1.

1. Mr. Ingham - to see

2. Anne Clack - Honours Section

*P.L. file.*



**BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION**

PRESS GALLERY HOUSE OF COMMONS LONDON SW1

TELEPHONE 01-222 9586 or 01-219 4765

4th February 1985

*Dear Mr Butler,*

Thank you for your letter of 28th January. I am very pleased indeed that we have been able, at this early stage in our enterprise, to agree on so many points. I look forward to having more detailed discussions with you at an early date.

The programme will come under the direction of Mr. Will Wyatt, Head of documentary Features, who will also be working with Mr. Christopher Capron, the newly appointed head of Parliamentary Broadcasting. Mr. Wyatt is now actively involved in arranging the necessary finance for it, and he is also selecting an experienced producer. As soon as this has been done, I will be in touch with you - and with Mr. Ingham - again, when the producer could work out with you the firm details of the filming that will have to be done.

Incidentally, it appears that Sunday, 22nd September is the exact anniversary date, and we are now working toward putting out the programme on or very near that date.

I will be in touch with both you and Mr. Ingham immediately the director has been selected.

*Yours sincerely,*  
*Christopher Jones*  
Christopher Jones  
Parliamentary Correspondent

F.E.R. Butler, Esq.,  
Principal Private Secretary,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON, SW1.

jlh

*Fine*  
*FEB 22 1985*

MR BERNARD INGHAM

c Mr Peter Joce

250th ANNIVERSARY

In the light of the Prime Minister's response to the points put to her on the subject of the 250th anniversary, are you content that I should reply to Christopher Jones' letter of 21 January on the attached lines?

*F.E.R.B*

F E R BUTLER

28 January 1985



10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

PERSONAL

28 January 1985

*Dear Mr. Jones,*

Thank you for your letter of 21 January. I am delighted that you and your senior colleagues at the BBC like the idea of a documentary about 10 Downing Street to mark its 250th anniversary. I set out below some reactions to the suggestions made in your letter so that you can take account of them in your planning. Once your own intentions are clearer, perhaps we could have a further meeting to undertake more detailed planning.

I am glad that you would want to cover the beginnings and the history of 10 Downing Street and famous events which have occurred here. In response to your suggestion that the programme should also cover the modern working of No 10, I have cleared with the Prime Minister that she would be content for the programme makers to be given facilities for this purpose, subject to the points below.

Above all, it would be important to ensure that the facilities given to the programme team should neither compromise security nor interfere unduly with the work of the Prime Minister's Office.

I am grateful to you for saying that you would co-operate fully with our experts over security. We will need to consider in our detailed planning the specific occasions which the programme makers might be allowed to film in order to illustrate the various facets of No 10 - at our earlier talk we mentioned as examples a reception in the State rooms, a formal dinner, preparations for receiving and the greeting of a distinguished visitor, the Trooping the Colour and the entertainment of the Commonwealth High Commissioners at it. But it would help enormously both with maintaining security and with minimising disruption if the team used to take these "behind the scenes"

Christopher Jones Esq

shots can be kept to the absolute minimum and remain uncharged.

The Prime Minister does not rule out shots being taken of the staff of No 10 going about their various duties, but there should not be interviews with them about their work. The Prime Minister does not think it appropriate for a film to be taken of a meeting of the Cabinet, but she would agree to shots being taken of a more informal meeting of Ministers in the Cabinet Room.

The Prime Minister would also be willing, in principle, to allow some shots to be taken of the private life of herself and her family at No 10.

I would certainly be prepared to write a letter in due course to former Prime Ministers explaining that the Prime Minister has authorised you to make a programme about No 10 to commemorate its 250th anniversary, which may help you if you want to approach them and their wives for their memories of living here. Similarly, I would write to any other organisations or individuals whom you wish to approach.

No doubt you will want to consider this response to the points raised in your letter and, when you are ready, Mr Ingham and I will look forward to a further discussion to undertake more detailed planning.

I am copying this letter to Bernard Ingham.

*Yours sincerely,  
Robin Butler.*

F E R BUTLER

# BBC Broadcasting House London W1A 1AA

Telephone 01-580 4468 Telex: 265781 Telegrams and Cables: Broadcasts London Telex

PERSONAL

21 January 1985

F.E.R. Butler Esq.,  
Principal Private Secretary,  
10 Downing Street,  
LONDON, S.W.1.

*Dear Mr Butler,*

Following our recent conversation, I have discussed the idea with Alan Protheroe, Assistant Director General of the B.B.C. He has mentioned the matter to the Director General, the Managing Director of BBC-TV, and the Director of Programmes: all share his enthusiasm and are delighted to accept your suggestion that we should make a television documentary programme based on the 250th anniversary of No 10, Downing Street. May I also add my personal thanks that you should have approached me on this matter.

This is clearly going to be a major undertaking, and at such an early stage it is difficult to be in any way precise about our plans. However, as you suggested yourself, our general approach would be that, as the public are unable to go round No 10 for themselves, our cameras should be there on their behalf.

It is also much too early to decide precisely what format the documentary should take: perhaps one fairly lengthy programme, or perhaps a series of shorter programmes. Whatever format we eventually feel to be most suitable, we would certainly cover the building of Downing Street and the life and times of its builder; we would want to show its development as the centre of cabinet government, and the famous and interesting men and women who have lived there and their life styles while they were at No 10; we would hope to see the many changes that have been made to it over the centuries, and most certainly recall the momentous events that have happened there, especially during the two world wars. Finally, we would wish to show No 10 as a modern and sophisticated centre of Government, yet still behind its unassuming but historic facade.

Cont...



In covering the modern workings of No 10 we would hope, for instance, to be able to show it as a place which leading foreign statesmen are proud to visit and we would like to see the preparations for those visits and their reception when they arrive. We would also hope to show the more informal moments when the Prime Minister entertains people from all walks of life, and to show the splendid rooms in which this happens and details of their historic furnishings.

There would naturally be intense public interest in precisely how the Prime Minister's life there is organised; how and where the staff work; their duties and responsibilities; and we would, while showing this, hope to interview members of all ranks among that staff. As I mentioned to you, we would especially hope to be given the unique facility of filming at least a part of a Cabinet meeting, and we would be happy to discuss with you the precise terms on which this could be done. My experience in filming a meeting of the Government whips at No 12 might be useful in this matter. Again, we would also be very keen to be allowed to film something of the private life of the Prime Minister and her family, showing No 10 not only as a place of formality and political power, but also as a very real private home - a role it has fulfilled for centuries.

All this would, as you most certainly will realise, involve a great deal of filming, and we would be happy to arrange, in detail, precisely how and when this would be done. Much would no doubt be done in the recesses at Easter, Whitsun and especially during the summer recess, although much will also have to be done when No 10 is fully operational if we are to show it working.

You mentioned to me the imperative need at all times to observe the rules of security. Naturally we would do so, and would co-operate fully with your experts in this matter.

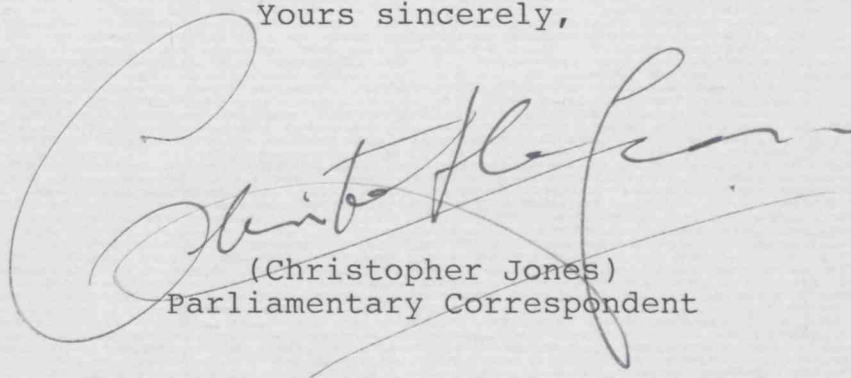
We discussed, also, the possibility of my interviewing former Prime Ministers-- and perhaps their wives -- about their memories of life at No 10, and you were good enough to say that you would contact them first on our behalf before we made any approaches ourselves. You also suggested that I should receive some form of credentials from you to cover approaches that I might feel it is necessary to make to other Government departments, organisations or individuals.

I hope that his letter deals, if only in general terms, with all the points we discussed. We are now actively putting our own arrangements in hand; we have, for instance, urgently to find a producer of suitable experience and standing, and there is much other planning to be done. If there is, however, any further matter which you want to discuss with me, or with any of those who become involved in the project, then we would, of course, always be available.

Cont...

I will, in any case, keep closely in touch with Mr Ingham -- I am sending him a copy of this letter -- so that we can go ahead as quickly as possible. There is an immense amount of work to be done if we are to cope with this, a major project, in time to mark such an historic anniversary.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Christopher Jones', written over a horizontal line.

(Christopher Jones)  
Parliamentary Correspondent

From: BBC Office, House of Commons.