File MJ2AGP

10 DOWNING STREET

28 March 1985

From the Principal Private Secretary

Thank you for your letter of 19 March.

I gather that you are going to be away for a fortnight from this weekend and we can discuss some of the detail in your letter when you return. But let me give you some initial reactions.

First, I realise that your letter deals with just one aspect of the programme. But I am still concerned that we may not be at one about the overall purpose. The invitation was to make a programme about the house and its history. We have agreed that this should also include some shots of its present day use. But the focus of the programme should be on the house rather than on the activities which go on in it or the people that work there. I hope that you will tell me that you accept this because, if you do not, we will be at odds throughout and it would be better not to go ahead at all on a false basis.

Second, you will understand that, if the staff here are to help by allowing themselves to be filmed, I must protect them against the criticism or derision of the political world in which we live. I fully accept that you will be anxious to avoid that and will want to build up people's confidence that you will show their activities in a constructive and uncontroversial light. But I am sure that you will understand that I cannot simply rely on that. I also have to worry about accidental breaches of security. Could we therefore be clear at this stage that you will not use on the programme any film taken inside the house which I ask you not to use, whatever the reason may be?

The third thing which I ought to say at this stage is that, while we will do our best not to waste your time during the period when you want to come and film here, our work must come first and we must therefore reserve the right to change parts of the schedule of filming if necessary. Obviously you will understand that some crisis could occur without notice during that period, which we could not deal with before the eyes of your team. With this in mind, could I suggest that you use the week beginning 27 May to take as much as possible

Bol

of the film which does not involve the Prime Minister. Parliament should be in recess for that week and you should be more secure against interruption.

Having said those general things, I am generally content with the suggestions in your letter, subject to discussing the detail. I do, however, share your fear that some of the "staged" events will prove unusable, either from your point of view or ours. In particular, I have reservations about the suggation that you should film "a staged" interview between Robin Catford and a candidate for a post. I think we should try to minimise artificiality. I would have thought that you could convey more accurately the nature of his work in another way, for example by filming him taking a bishop up to his room and sitting down with him.

I am afraid that you will think this a dreary letter, but you will realise that my role is to restrain and make conditions. Let us have a further talk when you return and get down to planning a detailed schedule of provisional dates.

Mrs Jennie Barraclough

BBC tv

BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION
KENSINGTON HOUSE RICHMOND WAY LONDON W14 0AX
TELEPHONE 01-743 1272 TELEX: 265781
TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: TELECASTS LONDON TELEX

2nd April 1985

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

Dear Mr. Butler,

Jenny Barraclough asked me to thank you for your letter which she has read carefully.

She will be in touch as soon as she gets back to the office.

Yours sincerely,

Sally Benge
Assistant to
Jenny Barraclough

MJ2AGK.

MISS CAINES

cc Mr Ingham
Mr Redwood
Mr Catford
Mr Sherbourne
Mr Flesher
Mr Addison
Mr Joce
Miss Dover
Mr Taylor

I attach a copy of a letter from Jenny Barraclough following her conversations with some of you about the planned programme on No.10 together with a draft reply. I would like to get this to her tomorrow. If copy recipients have any comments would they like to let me know by lunch-time tomorrow (Thursday). In the absence of any comments I will take silence for assent.

BF

FERB

27 March 1985

ec

MJ2AGP

DRAFT LETTER TO JENNY BARRACLOUGH

Thank you for your letter of 19 March.

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the period when you want to come and film here, our work must come first and we must therefore reserve the right to change parts of the schedule of filming if necessary. Obviously you will understand that some crisis could occur without notice during that period, which we could not deal with before the eyes of your team. With this in mind, could I suggest that you use the week beginning 27 May to take as much as possible of the film which does not involve the Prime Minister. Parliament should be in recess for that week and you should be more secure against interruption.

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TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: TELECASTS LONDON TELEX

Ext: 6221/6772
Room 2072

19th March, 1985

Dear Robin,

Yesterday's meetings went very well and I'm most grateful to everyone for being so helpful. We sorted out some ideas for filming which were briefly as follows:

Policy Unit

A brief excerpt of a policy unit meeting with discussion of an issue of general public interest.

Appointments

Robin Catford has kindly agreed to let us film a meeting between him and a successful candidate - either one which genuinely occurs in early May or a reconstructed interview with someone recently appointed.

Paintings

We were delighted to hear that Sir Robert Walpole is to be hung in the main hall. We hope to film Robin Catford supervising the hanging of this and another painting. We also hope to arrange an interesting sequence with Mr. Catford and Dr. Wendy Baron discussing the new paintings as well as other particular paintings and pieces of furniture in the State Apartments.

Political Office

Steven Sherbourne suggests we film him dictating a letter and discussion with Michael Alison, both of which are excellent ideas.

Private Secretaries

a) Parliamentary Affairs. We discussed with Tim Flesher two short sequences - organising the distribution of one of the Prime Minister's official statements and working on answers for Prime Minister's Question Time with Nicky Roach. We would also like to film the general exodus to the House of Commons on a Tuesday or Thursday.

Cont/....

b) Home Affairs. Mark Addison will go over the week's breakdown of letters with Kay Dover and deal with a couple of non-controversial letters which have been passed to him.

It would also be interesting to see him finalizing the Prime Minister's diary (something we omitted to talk about yesterday). I haven't yet spoken to Caroline Ryder but it would be nice to include her in this sequence.

The Private office

We would like to take some general shots of the office (with, if possible, a full complement of private secretaries) capturing some of the general activity without intruding on anything too specific.

The Principal Private Secretary

Very important! Perhaps nearer the time we could discuss some interesting, but harmless business you could be dealing with, that gives a reasonable idea of what you do without trespassing on anything confidential.

Honours

Not unfortunately a suitable time to film.

Press Office

I will discuss this in detail with Bernard Ingham and Jean, but we would like to film some of the activity in this lively office.

Garden Room

We would like to film the early morning sorting of letters and general secretarial activity as appropriate. We will include the plaque and such shots as will make interesting comparisons with the photos of the same room in 1941-42.

Lobby Correspondents

The Chairman of the Lobby Correspondents is being approached about our proposal to film one of their morning meetings with Bernard and his staff. We will of course be discussing this with Bernard in detail later.

Prime Minister and Cabinet Meeting

We look forward to hearing from you on the date for the Cabinet Meeting and the filming with the Prime Minister and her family, and will of course fit in with whatever you recommend. We would also like to film the Prime Minister in her office and leaving it to go to a cabinet meeting if this is possible.

Other Activities

The doormen, the plant and flower arrangers, the milk delivery, the horse and carriage deliver, the petitions, the garden, the cat, lunchtime.... these and other smalller items we would hope to fit in between the more important sequences. Perhaps we could work those out with Bernard when the main schedule has been established.

Receptions

As discussed, on May 15th, 21st, June 12th and 15th. Also the Private Secretaries' Garden Party at a date to be established. Filming would include behind-the-scenes preparations, guests arrivals, etc.

John Charlton

(An excellent idea). We would like to film him showing us some of the interesting historical pieces and pointing out changes in structure and decor.

General Filming in No. 10 to illustrate features of historical interest and points arising from interviews with ex-Prime Ministers etc. Also exterior shots in Downing Street.

I do hope I've covered everything. I would be most grateful if, when the time comes, you would draw our attention to any interesting last minute events that might crop up. We will draw up a detailed schedule in the week before filming begins. Please be assured that we will cause the minimum of inconvenience and that we will be careful at all times not to intrude upon matters that are sensitive or confidential.

May I say how impressed I have been with the friendliness and co-operation of the staff and with the good sense of my "minder"!

With best wishes.

Jenny Barraclough

Jenny Barraclough
Senior Producer
Documentary Features

Robin Butler, Esq.,
Principal Private Secretary,
10, Downing Street,
London. s.w.1.