

RANAJV



10 DOWNING STREET

19 April 1985

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

Many thanks for your letter of 17 April. I am much re-assured by its contents and am grateful to you for fitting in the bulk of the filming in the week beginning 27 May.

I am grateful also to your agreeing that I can see the film when it is finished and ask for changes if there is any unintentional misrepresentation or inaccuracy (or, of course, on security grounds). I entirely take the point which you make of operating on a basis of mutual trust, and I am sure that we can. As long as I have this safeguard for members of the staff, I am confident that I will only have to use it sparingly if at all, and I am equally confident that you will find that we are not unnecessarily fussy.

I look forward to meeting you to fix the details of the filming schedule.

RB

Mrs Jenny Barraclough

MR INGHAM

*File by me*

*J. R. B.*

cc Miss Caines

Mr Joce

I have now received a further letter from  
Jenny Barraclough.

I attach a copy, together with a draft reply and a minute  
which I am proposing to put to the Prime Minister, subject to  
your advice.

Peter Joce tells me that he will be in the office in the  
week beginning 27 May to supervise the film crew. I do not  
want to stop anybody from taking leave that week but I take it that  
there will also be a Press Officer who could be on hand?

*F.E.R.B.*

19 April, 1985





BRITISH BROADCASTING CORPORATION

KENSINGTON HOUSE RICHMOND WAY LONDON W14 OAX

TELEPHONE 01-743 1272 TELEX: 265781

TELEGRAMS AND CABLES: TELECASTS LONDON TELEX

17th April 1985

Dear Robin,

Thank you for your letter. I well understand your concern both about the staff at No.10 and about the timing of the filming.

On the question of the timing, it'll be no problem at all to move the bulk of the filming to the week of 27th May - I can see it makes excellent sense to film while parliament is in recess. Of course, we won't be able to fit all our filming in that week, but I'm sure you'll be able to advise me of days during the earlier part of May when we can film without causing disturbance. Some of the sequences - for example, the appointments office or the policy unit - can probably be shot without us being too much in evidence. With regard to Robin Catford, I think you're absolutely right and have already spoken to him about setting up a less contrived sequence along the lines you suggest.

On the question of the overall shape of the programme, I don't think our views are essentially divergent. As you yourself suggest, the fact that our dealings have been almost entirely to do with filming the working of No.10 today has tended to overemphasise that aspect. We are, of course, also putting a lot of effort into photographic and archival film research as well as interviews with people outside No.10 which we, like you, consider essential elements. It is important to realise, however, that, as with the "Palace of Westminster" series, we must use contemporary film - whether a dinner, a reception, a cabinet meeting or a function of the Private Office - to illustrate not only life in No.10 today but also the No.10 of the past, and to demonstrate both continuity and change. In this sense, I'm sure you will agree there is no real separation between 'people' and 'building'.

I quite understand your concern to safeguard the interests of the staff at No.10 who are being good enough to take part in the filming; and of course I must agree that you should see the film when it is finished in case there should be any unintentional misrepresentation or inaccuracy which you would like changed. However, I do hope that we can operate on a basis of mutual trust because, as you no doubt realise, an enormous amount of work goes into a film between the shooting and the finished product, which I cannot lightly jeopardise. Having said that, I'm sure you wouldn't want anything changed unless it was absolutely necessary and comments on accuracy in the script are always very helpful.

Cont./ . . .

17th April 1985

Perhaps we could meet in the near future to finalise filming dates. We will ring your office to arrange an appointment. As we are now delaying some of the filming that does not involve the Prime Minister, if it were possible to film the cabinet meeting or the Prime Minister and her family sometime between the 15th and 27th May, it would be very helpful as I have the crew booked for that period. However, I know how busy the Prime Minister is and will of course be content to film at whatever time you feel will yield the best results.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny Barraclough

Jenny Barraclough  
Senior Producer

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





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Mrs Jenny Barraclough

PRIME MINISTER

BBC TV PROGRAMME ON 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF NO.10

We are now well advanced with discussions with Jenny Barraclough and Christopher Jones who are producing the programme on the 250th Anniversary of No.10; and we have arranged that most of the filming inside the building will be done during the Whitsun Recess when you will not be involved and it should not cause disruption to the working of the office. The purpose of this minute is to clear with you the occasions in which you will be involved.

You agreed that the BBC could take some film of you in the flat. The most convenient day for that looks like Friday, 24 May, the day before the Whitsun Recess starts. The only snag about that is that Mr Thatcher (whom the BBC would have liked to have included in the domestic part of the film) will not be in London. However, you might like to see whether Carol would be available to be present in the flat with you for the filming. Agree to set aside two hours on Friday, 24 May?

Secondly, we agreed that the BBC could film the "behind the scenes" activity in receiving an overseas visitor, including your waiting in the hall and the receiving line of guests. We can fit this in conveniently with the dinner for the Prime Minister of Finland on Tuesday, 21 May. Agree?

Finally, the BBC want a shot of a meeting in the Cabinet Room. I suggest that they might film people assembling and the opening minute or two of the meeting of E(LF) to discuss local government finance on Monday, 20 May. The review of local government finance is public knowledge and we could ensure that the words spoken before the cameras left the room were anodyne. Agree?

There may be one or two other pieces of filming which the makers of the film will want, e.g. on the day of the Trooping



of the Colour or the Private Secretaries' party in the garden,  
but I hope that these will be very limited.

19 April, 1985



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Awning St. : 250th anniversary  
12/84



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