

CONFIDENTIAL



Ref. A083/1327

MR BUTLER

Prime Minister  
Agree to issue of the  
two notes on transport and  
newspaper articles and interviews?

FERB  
10.5

General Election: Procedure for Ministers

The Prime Minister has already approved the issue of a Cabinet Procedure paper providing general guidance for Ministers (C(P)(83) 1). That paper referred to the issue of the customary separate notes on broadcasting, press articles and the use of official transport during the Election.

- 2. I attach drafts of the notes on press articles and the use of official transport which are in standard terms and remain appropriate.
- 3. The standard note on broadcasting (text attached) will require some amendment as the first sentence which refers to an agreement reached between <sup>the</sup> "three major" political parties and the broadcasting authorities is no longer entirely appropriate. I understand that discussions are taking place between the parties and the broadcasting authorities tomorrow. I will advise further when the outcome of those discussions is known.

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

10 May 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

C(P)(83) 2

COPY NO

10 May 1983

CABINET: PROCEDURE

---

USE OF OFFICIAL TRANSPORT DURING THE GENERAL ELECTION

Note by the Prime Minister

---

OFFICIAL CARS

During the period of the General Election Ministers may continue to use, for official purposes, official cars provided from the Government Car Service or otherwise; but these cars should not be used for journeys connected with the Election. It is also undesirable that a Minister should use an official car, even on official business, in his constituency, except on an occasion when he is unexpectedly called back from his constituency on urgent official business. Those Ministers for whom the security authorities exceptionally consider it essential may continue to use their official cars on a repayment basis for private or party purposes.

AIRCRAFT

2. Similarly, during the period of the General Election, Ministers may continue to travel by air for official purposes in accordance with the normal rules. However, special flights by Ministry of Defence aircraft may not be made for journeys connected with the Election; there is of course no objection to private charter flights which are not paid for out of public funds. A Minister to whom special security considerations apply would only rarely have to make a journey connected with the Election of such urgency that he would wish to use a special flight rather than his official car, and he should not do so without my express permission. It is also undesirable that a Minister should use a special flight, even on official business, on a visit to his constituency, except on an occasion when he is unexpectedly called back from his constituency on official business.

M H T

10 Downing Street

10 May 1983

CONFIDENTIAL



CONFIDENTIAL

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

C(P)(83) 3

COPY NO

10 May 1983

CABINET: PROCEDURE

---

PRESS ARTICLES AND INTERVIEWS BY MINISTERS

Note by the Prime Minister

---

The normal rules governing press articles and interviews by Ministers are set out in C(P)(79) 1, paragraphs 108-114.

2. In present circumstances greater freedom may properly be allowed. Ministers may give interviews to the press and, in accordance with precedent, when Parliament has been dissolved they may also write articles in any newspaper in prosecution of the Government's aims or in defence of its policy. No payment may, however, be received for such articles.

3. As soon as the Election is over, the normal rules will again apply.

M H T

10 Downing Street

10 May 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

## **CABINET: PROCEDURE**

---

### **BROADCASTING BY MINISTERS DURING THE ELECTION**

#### **Note by the Prime Minister**

---

1. By agreement between the three major political Parties and the broadcasting authorities, candidates and spokesmen will be invited to broadcast on behalf of their Party during the Election only by arrangement with the National Party Headquarters (the invitations being channelled, where convenient, through regional Party Headquarters). In addition, with the extension of local television and radio stations and the change in the law following the Representation of the People Act, 1969, Ministers may be asked, particularly after Nomination Day, to take part as candidates in constituency broadcasts. Ministers are free to accept such invitations as they think fit; but no payment should, of course, be received.
2. While there may be the occasional case where it would be right for a Minister to accept an invitation to broadcast on overseas radio or television during the Election period such invitations should not be sought and should normally be declined.



CONFIDENTIAL



De VC

10 DOWNING STREET

*From the Principal Private Secretary*

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

General Election: Procedures for  
Ministers

Thank you for your minute of 10 May (AO83/1327). The Prime Minister has approved the issue of the notes on use of official transport during the General Election and on newspaper articles and interviews. We will await further advice on the note on broadcasting.

FRLB

11 May 1983

CONFIDENTIAL

SB