

1. MR BUTLER

cc Supt. Cawthorne

2. PRIME MINISTER

MEDIA ON JUNE 10

I am seeing BBC and ITN on Monday about the radio and television arrangements in Downing Street on the assumption that you are re-elected. It would be helpful to have a steer from you on what you would be prepared to do.

Objectives

On your re-election you would no doubt wish to share your triumph with the people, both with them and through the media.

You would also wish to set the tone for your new Administration, remembering the extent to which St Francis of Assisi has been quoted back at you over the last four years.

Subject to security advice, my objective would be to enable you genuinely to share your success with the voters while at the same time permitting the media to film it but not ruin it for the public.

Commitments

You have already agreed to permit ITN to put a remote camera into No 10 and into your car to film you leaving No 10 for the Palace and, if you go, on your way to the Palace and returning from seeing the Queen. You are not under any obligation to go to the Palace - see Robin's note. You have no other commitments.

Proposals

How we handle your comings and goings from No 10 depends first on whether you would like the public to be admitted to Downing Street after the polls close and on Friday.

If you would like them to be allowed into the street, Robin will consult the Special Branch on the advisability of permitting this and the terms on which they might be admitted.

For the purposes of planning I assume however that, if admitted, the public would be kept behind a barrier on the opposite side of the street. This would allow you to walk up the street to receive their congratulations and good wishes in reasonable comfort.

But this would only be possible in reasonable comfort if I insisted on BBC, ITN and IRN pooling cameras and microphones. Otherwise it would be an unholy scrum.

1. Agree therefore, subject to security advice, that I allow:

- one camera team each from BBC and ITN;
- one radio mike; and
- a PA reporter

to operate as a pool from your side of the barrier?

This arrangement, with the teams obliged to make their film, tape and copy available to all, would produce much better pictures and coverage both for the media and for yourself.

If however security objects to the admission of the public to Downing Street, you may nonetheless wish to go down to the barrier as you have on previous occasions.

2. Agree in these circumstances, that the same pool operates from your side of that barrier?

Whatever is agreed for the public, I propose that the media should be placed behind barriers to the right of the door of No 10 as you leave.

And I suggest that for the convenience of the media as well as yourself we should have a microphone installed in front of the barrier (as we did during the Falklands) so that you can say a few words to the media as and when you wish to do so.

3. Agree to use a microphone installed in the street for the purpose of addressing the media (not to mention the public)?

When you are not in the street I would propose, again subject to security advice, to permit radio, tv and press, by arrangement, and if necessary by pool, to do vox pop interviews with the waiting public. We

should require those journalists allowed to do this to return behind the press barrier before you appear.

4. Agree to vox pop interviews on a more relaxed basis when you are not in the street?

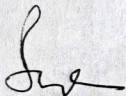
Interviews

Another way of sharing your triumph with the public would be to give short news interviews to BBC radio and tv, ITN, IRN and TV-AM once it is clear you are re-elected.

5. Agree to do such interviews in the White Room?

Summary

The above proposals are designed to achieve the best result for all concerned - yourself, public and media - as you receive the public's congratulations and share your success with the nation.



B. INGHAM

2 June 1983

cc N. Butler ✓

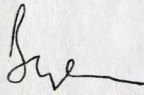
NOTE FOR THE RECORD

Bernard Ingham called together the press officers to discuss how they should prepare for election day - Thursday, June 9, 1983.

He opened the discussion by referring to a minute he had put to the Prime Minister (see Annex) seeking approval for admission of public, subject to security, to the street on polling night and on the Friday; tight control over the media; and, assuming the Prime Minister is re-elected, what she does with the media once she has been confirmed in office.

The following tasks were then identified:

1. Manning the press office for Thursday, Friday and the weekend - continuous manning of press office would be needed overnight on Thursday and into Friday. Miss Christopherson has agreed to arrange the times of attendance, assuming everyone will wish to stay overnight in the office. Weekend coverage - duty officer.
2. Issue of Honours List at 10.00pm Thursday followed by briefing on Friday at 9.30am.
3. Arranging for journalists to get into Downing Street to collect the embargoed copies of the Honours Lists. Some form of letter or pass to be arranged.
4. The handling of media in the street; interviews with the Prime Minister on her return from the Palace; security; COI microphone/amplification etc - IK to arrange.
5. Interview requests from foreign journalists - IK to co-ordinate.
6. Arrange Lobby briefings (plus Sunday Lobby).
7. Get previous papers on:
 - (a) facts and figures of 1979 results;
 - (b) TSRB; Cabinet members and salaries;
 - (c) procedure for electing new Speaker.
8. Allot tasks for each press officer so each person can 'specialise'.



2 June 1983