PRIME MINISTER

REGIONAL HEALTH CHAIRMEN

In presentational terms, I think you need to make the
following points to them:

-   there is a gap between the facts - 24% increase in
    real resources for the NHS and great satisfaction
    among patients who have been treated by it - and the
    public's perception of cuts and more cuts

-   that perception has not been promoted by the
    Government, but the Government has provided the
    increase in real resources and staff

-   it is time that the NHS began to take pride in its
    many achievements (see attached fact sheet); this is a
    managerial problem

-   instead of taking pride in itself the NHS is the
    target of its so-called "ardent supporters" who miss
    no opportunity to run it down; their purpose is, of
    course, to try to force the Government to divert
    resources from other deserving causes to their pay
    packets or, putting it at its highest, towards
    particular treatments

-   NHS management needs to get a grip on this deliberate
    campaign to denigrate the NHS (along with the
    Government) for it raises questions not merely of
    staff morale but of public confidence in the service.

BERNARD INGHAM
24 September 1986

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE IN GREAT BRITAIN: KEY POINTS

ACTIVITY:
1978-84

Almost 1 million extra in-patient cases.

Well over $1\frac{1}{3}$ million extra day cases.

Over $3\frac{3}{4}$ million extra out-patient cases.

Double the number of patients receiving kidney treatment (UK).

Nearly three times as many coronary artery by-pass grafts.

15 million more prescriptions dispensed (1978-85).

Over $5\frac{1}{4}$ million extra courses of dental treatment (1978-85).

Almost 3 million extra sight tests.

EXPENDITURE:

Increased by about 24 per cent in real terms (1978-79 to 1986-87).

Over 96 per cent funded from tax and NHS contributions (roughly 3 per cent charges).

MANPOWER:

5,500 more hospital doctors and dentists (1978-85).

63,000 more hospital nurses and midwives (1978-85) (roughly 29,200 of the increase due to a reduction in the nurses' working week).

Over 3,500 more general practitioners (1978-85).

August 1986