

MR INGHAM

MR POWELL

PRIME MINISTER

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Chares

*FCO tell me Re written answers
will be submitted to the FCO
Private Office tonight.*

*Photo Home.
12/9*

GERMAN VISIT - MEDIA INTERVIEWS

You have agreed to give an interview to Mr Bernt Conrad, the Diplomatic Correspondent of "Die Welt" of Hamburg, a national daily with a circulation of over 200,000.

Your programme allows only 30 minutes for the interview after the formal sessions at the Chancellery. It will take place at the Ambassador's residence in Bonn and will be recorded by the COI.

Mr Conrad has interviewed you once before in October 1984.

Because time is so short in Bonn, Mr Conrad submitted a series of questions for written answer in advance of the interview (attached at Annex A). The FCO are producing answers for submission.

During the interview he will develop certain of the areas covered in the written questions. He would like to start on South Africa and sanctions; go on to East/West relations in a world context but with particular reference to arms control and prospects for the USA/USSR summit; touch on the UK Presidency and Community affairs before concluding with one or two "personal" questions.

At the end of your visit to RAF Guttertloh on Wednesday, you are to give short interviews for radio and television to the British Forces Broadcasting Service. A room has been set aside and again the COI will be present to record.

Mr John Walker will conduct the radio interview and he has been told that he has five minutes. He will ask questions

on your visit; Britain in NATO and if you have a message for our servicemen and women in Germany.

Mr Jim Luxton for television will cover similar ground but also would like to ask you about "cutbacks" in the local * allowance paid to the British Forces in Germany and the effect the DM/Sterling exchange rate has upon them. Mr Luxton's list of questions is at Annex C and he understands that in five minutes he cannot cover them all.

* I have asked MOD for briefing in case it has not been included elsewhere.

Michael Horne.

MICHAEL HORNE

12 September 1986

DIE WELT, Bernt Conrad

Questions for Prime Minister Thatcher

1. After the latest massacres in Karachi and Istanbul people can see again, that international terrorism is one of the greatest dangers of our time. You have your own experiences. Do you see any realistic possibility to stop this madness? Is there enough international cooperation, especially among the European partners?
2. You had some trouble with your partners in the Commonwealth about the usefulness of economic sanctions against South Africa. I think you are right: Sanctions will not help politically. But after the disappointing visit of Sir Geoffrey Howe in southern Africa at least some limited sanctions seem to be unavoidable for the European Community. Do you accept that? And how do you see the future development in South Africa?
3. Do you see a chance for a combined action of Europe, America and Japan in the field of sanctions against South Africa?
4. That leads to the general relations between Europe and the United States. There are growing problems especially in the minds of the younger generation here and ~~xxxxxx~~ at the other side of the Atlantic. A new isolationism in America and a new ~~isolationism~~ ^{neutrality} in Europe are not impossible. What can the Europeans do to prevent a split between America and Europe?
5. ~~psychology~~, but even more the fact of growing economical competition can divide Europe and America. Competition is necessary. But how can you avoid negative consequences for the alliance?
6. The friendship between Germany and France is a cornerstone of the European Community. But do you think the partnership between Britain and Germany

is strong enough to check that in the interest of a proper balance within the Community?

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7. Two years ago in our first interview you asked me, what Bundeskanzler Kohl meant with his desire for a European Union. Now you are the president of the European Council, and I want to ask you: Is the European Union or in other words: a closely united Europe a realistic aim for you? And furthermore: What are ~~the~~^{your} concrete goals during the British presidency?

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8. You have been the first leading western politician who met with Secretary General Gorbatschow. Your first impression was rather positive. How do you judge today the policy and the position of Mr. Gorbatschow?

9. Do you think there will be an second summit between President Reagan and Gorbatschow? And what will be the outcome?

UKD

10. In Germany we are now facing a phenomenon which is wellknown to you in Britain: the growing stream of refugees from other parts of the world. One of the reasons is, that our constitution is very liberal in that respect. Do you think, a democratic state has to bear the burden of hundreds of thousands of refugees or do you see any limitation? And how can to stop such stream?

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11. Some years ago the protection of environment seemed to be no real problem for Britain. But now you are doing a lot for that protection. Do you see an necessity for more European cooperation in this respect?

Germany

12. Do you think that the peaceful use of nuclear energy has to be limited or even stopped after the experiences of Tschernobyl? Or is the nuclear energy indispensable for a modern

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industrial society?

13. In Britain you and your party had to face several set-backs in the latest by-elections. And there was some trouble in your own government. Do you still see realistic chance^s/to win the next election? What will be your most important argument for your constituency?

14. After all your political experiences: Are you still the so called "Iron Lady"? Do you like that name any more?

LINE OF QUESTIONING FOR BFBS RADIO INTERVIEW

1. Your reaction to what you have seen during your tour in BFG and how impressed you have been by the standard of professionalism within the British Armed Forces in Europe.
2. The importance of Britain's role within NATO.
3. How successfully Britain is carrying out its NATO commitment.
4. Anything you would particularly like to say to British servicemen and women in BFG.
5.

The seriousness of the Russian threat.
6. How rising costs of weaponry and equipment will determine our future defence policy.
7. Views on past Conservative leaders.

SEP 11 '86 11:21
 FOR THE ATTENTION OF MR MIKE HORNE - PRESS OFFICE
 DOWNING STREET

PRIME MINISTER. - suggested questions for TV interview

- × 1. Prime Minister, you have had quite a whirlwind tour today, seeing and hearing about various aspects of BFG, what have been your impressions of your visit today?
- × 2. You had the chance to talk to some of the soldiers and airmen on the ground, what worries or problems did they express to you?
- × 3. Recent cutbacks in LOA and the falling exchange rate between the pound and the mark has made the average serviceman worse off financially and caused a certain amount of resentment among the troops that they are being hard done by. Are you happy that the BFG serviceman is getting a fair deal for his part in helping to maintain and defend NATO here in Germany?
- × 4. What, if anything, are you doing to improve their lot?
- 5. You have just had a meeting with the two Cs in C, did they have any big worries about lack of manpower, resources or morale which were making their jobs as leaders increasingly difficult?
- 6. Just how important do you feel BFG's role in NATO is?
- 7. Do you foresee any major changes to BFG in the future, for example, there has been talk lately of cutting back drastically on the number of British troops here?
- 8. You have spent the day with your German opposite number, Chancellor Kohl, does he have any reservations about the British Forces here in Germany, for example complaints from his voters about the disruption to their lives of such things as exercises, low flying and so on cases?