



MR INGHAM

PRIME MINISTER'S TELEVISION INTERVIEWS: ROOM 2818, UN PLAZA

The three breakfast television shows have a combined audience of 14 - 15 million and are closely watched by senior officials and commentators. The Prime Minister's interviews therefore will help set the tone for questions at the Press Conference at the United Nations and the Press Conference after the talks with President Reagan.

2. The style of the breakfast television shows is relaxed and informal. Apart from Mr Hottel (CBS), the interviewers do not have a specialised knowledge of foreign affairs topics. Their objective will be to give the Prime Minister an opportunity to explain her policies in three or four areas: follow up questions are unlikely to be aggressive.

3. The subjects most likely to be covered are:

- a) The Falklands. Future negotiations? US pressure on Britain? UN involvement? Can Britain afford to keep a garrison in the Islands? Effect on NATO? Effect on US relations with Latin America? US sanctions?
- b) Meeting with President Reagan. What will the Prime Minister say to him about the Falklands? What other topics will be discussed?
- c) East-West relations. What prospects of progress on disarmament? Attitude on sanctions against the Soviet Union including the gas pipeline project?
- d) Middle East. Attitude to the Israeli invasion? What can the European Community do?
- e) Britain. Prospects for the economy? Early general election?
- g) Britain and the Community. Effect of dropping of sanctions against Argentina? Budget contribution.

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GOOD MORNING AMERICA: (7.12 - 7.22)

"Good Morning America" is the most popular of the three breakfast television programmes with an audience of over six million. The programme's news presenter, Mr Steven Bell, is flying from Washington for the interview. Mr Bell, who is 47, has been with "Good Morning America" since it was launched in 1976. Before that he has had assignments with ABC as a White House correspondent (covering Presidents Nixon and Ford), as a Vietnam war correspondent, and bureau chief in Hong Kong. He frequently covers major overseas events, and was in London for the President's visit earlier this month.

NBC "Today": (7.37 - 7.47)

"Today" is only marginally less popular than its closest rival "Good Morning America". The interview will be conducted by the programme's Washington news presenter, Mr Chris Wallace. Son of one of the best known correspondents in US television, Mr Wallace is one of the youngest senior correspondents in network television. He joined "Today" last year after working on NBC's "Evening News" programme. He made his national reputation with reports from the Conventions in the 1980 election campaign.

CBS "Morning News": (8.12 - 8.20)

CBS' breakfast programme has been considerably less successful in the ratings than its two rivals, but until recently has concentrated more on hard news. The interview will be conducted by Mr Richard Hottelet who has been CBS' UN correspondent since 1960. Mr Hottelet joined CBS as a correspondent in Europe towards the end of World War II and served as Bonn correspondent from 1951 to 1956. As the most distinguished of the networks' UN correspondents he has interviewed many visiting Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers, including Lord Carrington. He is likely to focus the discussion in a more searching manner than the other interviewers on United Nations topics.

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