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cc vc

cc Bernard
Ingham

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

24 October 1983

Visit of Yugoslav Prime Minister

Thank you for your letter of 19 October.

The Prime Minister agrees to give a 15 minute interview to RTV Belgrade in connection with the visit of the Yugoslav Prime Minister to London next month.

It would be helpful if you could be in touch with Bernard Ingham about the timing of and briefing for the interview.

A. J. COLES

R.B. Bone, Esq.,
Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

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10 DOWNING STREET

Prime Minister

do you agree?

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Prime Minister

devised and I think it a good idea for you to give a short interview to Yugoslav TV. May we arrange?

Foreign and Commonwealth Office

London SW1A 2AH

19 October, 1983

See John.

A-J.C. $\frac{23}{5}$

mt

Visit of Yugoslav Prime Minister

As you know, Mrs Planinc, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, will be visiting Britain from 15-18 November at the invitation of the Prime Minister. In connection with Mrs Planinc's visit, HM Ambassador in Belgrade had received a request from RTV Belgrade asking for a 15 minute interview with the Prime Minister, to be broadcast on Yugoslavia's main evening news. The interviewer would be Nikola Vitorovic, RTV Belgrade's senior commentator who is responsible and well-disposed and speaks good English.

Such an interview would present a first class opportunity of putting Britain, our achievements and policies firmly before the Yugoslav public. More generally, it provides an opportunity to restate the West's case to the Yugoslavs, particularly on disarmament and East/West relations, and to draw attention to British support for Yugoslavia's efforts at economic stabilisation. Given Yugoslavia's leading position in the Non-Aligned Movement, it is also possible that such an interview, if it were given wide publicity in Yugoslavia, could provide an opportunity to get a message through to the Movement as a whole.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary therefore recommends that, if at all possible, the Prime Minister agree to this interview.

[Handwritten signature]

(R B Bone)
Private Secretary

A J Coles Esq
10 Downing Street