



a. B.L.

10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

SIR ROBERT ARMSTRONG

HUGO YOUNG/ANNE SLOMAN: PROFILE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

You may know that Hugo Young and Anne Sloman are preparing a further series of six programmes, tentatively for broadcast in May, following their programmes on the FCO and the Treasury. This series is to mark the Prime Minister's ten years as Party Leader and will amount to a profile of the Prime Minister, her policies and her working methods.

The producers of the programme are hoping to include interviews with a wide range of people with whom the Prime Minister has worked ranging from President Reagan and Helmut Schmidt to former policy advisers. They have said that they would like to have one programme on the working of No. 10 and for this purpose propose interviews with members of the staff here, and also with Peter Middleton, Clive Whitmore, David Williamson and perhaps Michael Butler. I have no doubt that they would also wish to interview you. The purpose of this minute is to let you know that the Prime Minister is not in favour of people in No. 10 giving interviews about the work of this office. From previous discussions, I know that Clive Whitmore in any case shared my reluctance to give such interviews. You and others may also feel that a series of programmes which is avowedly about the personality of the Prime Minister is sufficiently different from the programmes on the work of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Treasury to make it less appropriate for Civil Servants to take part.

However, the main purpose of this minute is to warn you and other recipients that you may be approached by Anne Sloman or Hugo Young and to let you know of the decision which the Prime Minister has taken about the participation of members of the No. 10 staff.

I am copying this minute to Peter Middleton, Clive Whitmore, Michael Butler, David Williamson and Bernard Ingham.

M. B. BUTLER

29 January 1985

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10 DOWNING STREET

Mr Butler

I have spoken to Mr Stoman
since I did not want to put
pen to paper on this subject.

She may well interpret
my remarks narrowly, and
try to persuade those who
have worked in Do to tent
do not now do so to
give interviews. We shall
need to formulate a line
for them, given that some -
of Peter Middleton, David
Williamson - have taken part
in previous Stoman/Young/Jenkins
programmes

John 29/4