

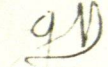
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Alison Ward,
Chief Whip's Office

BANANA SKINS BEFORE EASTER

1. John Goulden of our Press office has already sent a diary to Bernard Ingham, which is fairly comprehensive. The following are some additional personal observations which I have not had time to discuss with Ministers here.
2. The main problem areas look like being;
 - a. European Community: continuing rumblings among MPs about the negotiations and about the new own resources in particular. The ground is not yet well prepared for any agreement at the Brussels Summit (19/20 March) which involved a compromise on this. (We are working on this here and preparing briefing for circulation). There will be continuing efforts by Labour to make mischief in the House out of our discussions. We want to retain some optimism and accent the positive without weakening our 'firm defence of Britain' posture.
 - b. European elections: the preparations for these in all parties will continue to create stories. The "Information Campaign" (answerable to the Party Chairman) will run advertisements and posters up to 14 April.
 - c. Agricultural Price-fixing: these negotiations will be a continuing Community story and we will have to watch the mood of the agricultural community and consumers.
 - d. Hong Kong: continuing widespread interest as the negotiations make progress.
 - e. Falklands/Argentina: progress of contacts, and discussions (later?) on Fisheries Zone.
 - f. Irish Forum Report: expected early March. Will affect our Northern Ireland policy.
 - g. European Parliament: the debates there, and EDG actions in voting, will be given more attention because of the approach of elections. In February the Spinelli Report (a new Treaty of Rome) will be debated. In March the Albert/Ball Report on Economic Recovery.


J Houston

3 February 1984

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