

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 5.4.82

The morning lobby was repeated.

We briefed the lobby on the PM's meeting with the Governor of the Falkland Islands and Major Noot and Major Norman (see POB 79).

RESIGNATIONS

We briefed the lobby making the 5 points in BI's note of 5 April.

Douglas Hurd was in charge at the FCO pro temps. We hoped to be able to announce the new Foreign Secretary later today although we did not believe we would be able to announce all the new appointments.

We stressed that the PM was not of a mind to seek resignations. The lobby should read the text of the letters very carefully. She had not rebuked either Lord Carrington or Mr Nott. She had spoken with both of them over the weekend when obviously, bearing in mind the contents of the letters, the possibility of resignation had been discussed. As could be seen from the letters there was a clear distinction between responsibility in respect of Lord Carrington and Mr Nott.

The LPS and Mr Luce operated in the shadow of Lord Carrington and as a result of the PM failing to persuade Lord Carrington to stay they felt they had to tender their own resignations.

In answer to questions we said we did not know of any plans the PM might have to resign.

There were no special reasons for any delay in announcing the new appointments. The decisions required careful thought and took time. Bearing in mind that since the resignations were announced the PM had seen the Governor, had lunch and attended a memorial service, it was not surprising that no announcements had yet been made. The reconstruction would be as small as possible but even one move might require several others. We were not prepared to speculate on whether anyone had been approached to be the new Foreign Secretary but had turned it down.

The PM had seen Mr Pym and Mr Joseph over lunch with other colleagues. This was a long-standing engagement.

We could not confirm that the Canberra was sailing but if and when she did we would expect her to be full. She was requisitioned following yesterday's Order in Council. We were not aware of any aircraft requisitions. We directed the lobby to speak to Defence concerning the Royal Yacht. We could not say who would speak in the debate on Wednesday. Asked about further economic consequences we said that all options were open.

If extracts from Lord Carrington's letter of resignation had been carried before our announcement this must have been because the FCO had released it. We had no information about Lord Trefgarne although we had heard rumours that he was considering resignation.

Although 3 Foreign Office Ministers had resigned policy would remain as before; this was made clear in the exchange of letters.