

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 12.5.82

This morning's lobby was repeated with the addition of a statement by Mr Walker following the EC Agricultural Council meeting.

## Salaries

We drew attention to, and issued copies of, the Prime Minister's written answer on the TSPRB and the Government's conclusions on top salaries and also the Lord President's written answer on MPs' pay. We also provided a limited number of copies of the TSPRB Report.

We outlined the background to the Top Salaries Award in response to enquiries on the terms of the written answer, noting that the TSPRB had made a case for substantial increases, adding that the Government accepted reasons for these recommendations but as with the doctors and dentists, the awards would be abated for the top salaries group. This nevertheless gave the higher grades of the Civil Service and higher ranks of the Services an increase of 14.3% and the Judiciary 18.3%. The increase for MPs followed the pay factor at 4%. We confirmed that the latter was subject to House of Commons approval and reminded the lobby that the Government was still considering the Select Committee Report on means of future pay determination for MPs.

We noted that the TSPRB had recommended 26% in 1980 and the Government had paid 12½%. In 1981 the TSPRB had not made any new recommendation but has asked for the 1980 award to be implemented in full. The Government had paid 7%. This meant that the top salaries were some 5% behind the 1980 recommended levels. We pointed out some of the anomalies such as top barristers who were earning considerably more than judges and Assistant Secretaries earning more than Under Secretaries. We emphasised the necessity to provide adequate career structure and the need to avoid long term damage to the Government's ability to protect and retain individual people of high calibre. The Government had to come to decisions in the light of these factors for each individual group.

## Visits

We issued press notices on the visits of Mr Mugabe of Zimbabwe, Mr Muldoon of New Zealand and King Hassan II of Morocco.

## Falkland Islands

We read out Mr Pym's statement given after the Ministerial meeting in Downing Street that morning. We reported that matters had not gone much further since we briefed the lobby last time but proposals from both sides were being considered by the Secretary General and a lot of detailed and small points were being discussed. The lobby were particularly keen to gauge a degree of optimism and pessimism. We said we had always hoped but pointed to Mr Pym's statement which counselled caution on the basis of past experience. Our hopes had been raised several times before only to be dashed.

We thought it unlikely that Mr Pym would go to New York until the proposals were nearer maturity and agreed that Mr Parsons was working under instructions resulting from the regular meetings of the group of ministers most concerned. We also emphasised that Ministers wanted to keep all military options open. Both sides were still building on the basic procedural framework put up by the UN. We now knew the broad areas being talked about, but there was a need to establish detail on how, when and why matters, in terms of a package, could be taken forward. We could not go into substance of the negotiations. We repeated the point about no ceasefire before a commitment to withdraw and no prejudgement on long term negotiations.

We confirmed that there would be a Cabinet meeting the following day.