

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11 AM date: 2.6.82

PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is working at No 10 all day.

At 9.30 am the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the Group of Ministers concerned with the Falklands (Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, Home Secretary, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Attorney General and the CDS) ending at 11 am.

This afternoon the Prime Minister will record interviews on the Falkland situation for ITN and BBC TV news, and for German ARD-TV in advance of the Versailles Summit.

At 6 pm the Prime Minister hopes to have an audience of The Queen.

REAGAN VISIT

We told the Lobby that having checked with Washington there was no basis to BBC Radio "Today" report that the President may cancel his talks with the Prime Minister.

We gave details of the background briefing and the press arrangements for the Prime Minister's meetings with the President, as noted in Press Bulletin 142. We said we expected the working breakfast meeting to start on a tête-à-tête basis.

FALKLANDS

We said this morning's meeting of Ministers discussed the situation in the United Nations. We expected Parsons to see the Secretary General again today. We could give no indication of future developments. We were non-committal about the reported hopeful comments of the 2 Argentine envoys sent to the UN.

We said the Prime Minister was aware of reports of napalm being found at Goose Green but had made no comment.

We suggested that the high level of Argentine casualties was more likely to persuade the Argentines rather than the UK Government to hold off military action.

We were not aware if the UK commander had suggested safe passage for civilians in Port Stanley, a request which would largely depend on the willingness of the Argentines.

We said that although there was a well established arrangement for burying war dead, there is a War Graves Cemetery on the Falklands, the wishes of relatives for other arrangements would be considered by the Government.

We told the Lobby that Parliament was being kept informed of developments but there were no plans for an early recall.

We were not aware of any MoD statements today and reminded the Lobby that MoD would not be able to discuss military movements.

PRIME MINISTER'S INTERVIEWS

ITN plan to transmit the full interview on the 10 o'clock News and a shorter version on the 5.45 pm News.