

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11 AM date: 8.6.82

PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is working at No 10 this morning and will be dividing the rest of her day between the Royal Gallery, the House and No 10 before attending The Banquet at Windsor Castle for President Reagan this evening.

At noon the Prime Minister will be in the Royal Gallery, Palace of Westminster for President Reagan's address to members of both Houses of Parliament. We expected President Reagan to speak for about half an hour.

At 1.00 pm the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher will host a lunch in honour of President and Mrs Reagan. We gave the Lobby a copy of the guest list and gave details of the menu. We would have copies of the speeches available as soon as they had been delivered. We thought the Prime Minister would emphasise the special relationship between the UK and the USA and the strength of the alliance. The President will depart at 2.20 pm.

At 3.15 the Prime Minister will be in the House for Questions and at 3.30 pm will make a statement to the House on the Economic Summit covering international economic issues, the Lebanon and the Falklands.

At 5.45 pm the Premier of Bermuda, the Hon John Swan, will make a half hour courtesy call on the Prime Minister.

At 8.30 pm the Prime Minister will attend the Banquet at Windsor Castle for President and Mrs Reagan.

PRESS NOTICE

Appointment of Mr Douglas George Badham as Lieutenant for the County of Mid Glamorgan.

PUBLICATIONS

At 11 am CFRs will be available of the Report of the Review Committee on Insolvency Law and Practice (Chairman Sir Kenneth Cork - Press Conference at 2.30 pm on Wednesday). (DoT will be responding tomorrow in the form of a PQ.)

At 3.30 pm CFRs will be available of the Report of a Joint Working Party on the Support of University Scientific Research. (The Chairman, Mr Merrison, will hold an embargoed Press Conference at noon tomorrow.)

IN THE HOUSE

STATEMENT

There will be a Statement by the Prime Minister at 3.30 pm on the Versailles Economic Summit.

ANSWERS OF INTEREST

No 89 Written: Mr Kenneth Warren to ask the Secretary of State for Energy whether he will now make a statement on the Government's intentions with regard to imposing production cuts on UK Continental Shelf oil fields. (Answer will announce no depletion till the end of 1984.)

No 228 Written: Mr Kenneth Carlisle to ask the Secretary of State for Energy what role he sees for the British Gas Corporation in the eighth round of offshore licensing. (Answer will indicate that the Secretary of State hopes that BGC will apply for blocks which have gas potential.)

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11 AM date: 8.6.82

No 36 Written: Mr Dennis Canavan to ask the Secretary of State for the Environment, whether he considers that the participation by British rugby union players in a world team in Johannesburg in July is a breach of the Gleneagles Agreement; and what action he has taken or intends to take.

We expected all these to be answered at 3.30 pm.

PYM BROADCAST

We understood that Mr Pym was to broadcast on the World Service at 5 pm. The text would be available at 4 pm.

REAGAN VISIT

Asked if President Reagan would be putting any peace initiatives on the Falklands to the Prime Minister, we said we did not expect anything of this kind and pointed out that the Falkland situation had been discussed in Paris and Versailles over the weekend. We confirmed that Mr Haig was meeting Mr Pym for about an hour this morning. They would be mainly concerning themselves with the Middle East situation. We thought that Wednesday morning's talks between the Prime Minister and the President, starting off as 'tête-à-tête' and then widening, would also deal with the Middle East crisis as well as looking ahead to the NATO Summit in Bonn.

FALKLANDS

Asked about activity in the Falklands, we said we were preparing to take Port Stanley. Diplomatic activity was quiet in terms of peace initiatives after the last UN effort had failed.

Asked about reaction to the Prime Minister's interview with COI Radio which had been interpreted into Spanish and offered as a 9½ minute broadcast on 3 June, we reported that it had been used by radio stations in Montevideo (Uruguay), Punta Arenas (Chile), Mexico City (Mexico), Caracas (Venezuela), Santiago (Chile), Spanish Information Service (Texas), Bogota (Colombia), Lima (Peru), Asuncion (Paraguay), Tegucigalpa (Honduras). The broadcast had been regarded as excellent, interesting, informative, impressive and useful.

MR BIFFEN'S SPEECH

Asked to comment on Mr Biffen's speech about financing the Falkland Islands operation, we drew attention to similar words by Mr Brittan of several weeks ago. There was no immediate cash problem. A large part of the asset replacement exercise would be spread over a number of years. We could not give the current costs but if there was any excess over normal running, pay etc costs, the contingency reserve could be called on. Of course the Government would maintain its economic policy and therefore the bottom line, if eventually it became necessary, would be to raise taxes.

BIRTHDAY HONOURS

We reminded the Lobby that a Birthday Honours briefing would take place in Mr Ingham's room at 12 noon on Wednesday, with the publication embargo 00.01 hours on the morning of Saturday 12 June.

HC