

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 9.6.82

PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is working at No 10 all morning and will depart for Bonn this afternoon.

At 9.00am the Prime Minister had a working breakfast and talks with President Reagan. They were accompanied by Secretary Haig and the Foreign Sec. This developed into a plenary session in the Cabinet Room where they were joined by John Nott, Judge Clark, Edwin Meese, David Gergen and British officials.

At 10.25 the Prime Minister and the President spoke to the press outside No 10 and the President departed at 10.35.

At 10.35am the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the Group of Ministers concerned with the Falklands (Defence Sec., Home Sec., Chancellor of the Duchy, the Attorney General and the CDS). The Foreign Sec., was absent at airport with President.

At 11.15am the Prime Minister will chair a meeting of the Cabinet. [Falklands, Parliamentary Affairs, Foreign Affairs, Community Affairs.] All present except Mr Pym who was at Heathrow Airport for the President's departure. (He returned to No 10 at 11.45am).

At 1.15pm the Prime Minister will record 3 interviews for American tv networks NBC, CBS, ABC. Transcripts being made available to lobby as soon as possible.

The Prime Minister will depart for Bonn in the afternoon to attend tomorrow's NATO Summit meeting.

PUBLICATIONS

At 3.30pm the Report of the Joint Working Party on the Support of University Scientific Research. The Chairman, Mr Merrison, will hold an embargoed press conference at noon.

At 3.30pm CFRs will be available of the Report of the Parole Board for 1981 for publication at 3.30pm tomorrow.

IN THE HOUSE

There are no statements.

ANSWERS OF INTEREST

No 39 written 3.30pm: Mr Tony Speller to ask the Minister for Trade if he is able to publish the Final Report of the Insolvency Law Review Committee (Answer will announce publication. Chairman, Sir Kenneth Cork, will hold press conference at 2.30pm).

No 47 Written 3.30pm: Sir William Clark to ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he intends to make any changes to his oil tax proposals in the light of oil industry representations. (Answer will announce proposed changes which will benefit operators in marginal fields).

UN DISARMAMENT TALKS AT NEW YORK CITY

A reminder to the Lobby of the note announcing press seats would be available on the flight to New York next Tuesday, 6.00pm departure from Heathrow, ETA J F Kennedy at 9.40pm. Return Wednesday 8.40pm, arriving Heathrow Thurs 7.30am.

HONOURS

Noon today, Birthday Honours briefing.

TALKS

We said that the talks over breakfast covered Falklands, Middle East and NATO. The PM said of Mr Reagan's visit "it was a triumph" and that the President had got through to the ordinary people who were particularly receptive because we had come to realise that you cannot take freedom for granted and it must be defended. The effect of the visit was to strengthen the alliance and what both countries stand for. We did not know of any discussion today about the MNF.

PEACE-KEEPING FORCE

We haven't reached the stage of discussing details of any future peace-keeping force so there is no question of any divergence of opinion over its make-up between us and the US. We reminded the lobby of the stages which we had to go through:

1. Get the Argentine's off the Islands.
2. Restoration of British administration and a total ceasefire.
3. Rehabilitation of the Island and community.
4. At the appropriate time there will be a long term consideration of the future. But to discuss the details of the long term security arrangements would be premature.

We acknowledged that there was always a possibility of a divergence of opinions on any issue but there was no point in looking for divergencies until detailed discussion of the problem was reached. We agreed that the MNF was an open idea and the PM had never rejected it. We hadn't got anywhere near talking about any role for the Argentines. We did not like them or the way they had behaved and our hearts had been hardened against them. We pointed out that the political situation in this country had changed because the Argentine's refusal to leave the Islands had cost British lives needlessly.

CEASEFIRE

We said it was impossible to talk now of how the ceasefire would be achieved but pointed out that it was in the interests of a great many countries to bring peace and stability to the South Atlantic. We were hopeful of working together with the US over achieving a ceasefire.

MILITARY

We repeated that the final assault on Port Stanley had not been held up either by the Versailles Summit or President Reagan's visit.

FOREIGN UNIT IN NO 10

We said we had no knowledge of any plan to set up a rival foreign branch within No 10 (as alleged in the Guardian in Peter Jenkins' column) and in fact could not see how the FCO or any other department could be duplicated within the PM's office. We did agree that it would be possible for the PM to appoint a foreign specialist equivalent to Alan Walters but knew of no plans to do so. We stressed that Ministers get their advice from many different sources. They talk to as many as they can and then pay heed to those they want to.

POST BREAKFAST STATEMENTS

We said that the President had no intention and we had no intention of answering press questions after the delivery of statements this morning. We agreed that the President does sometimes say things to the media on such occasions but it is not usually anything of substance. Anyway it was a case of when in Britain