

PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is working at No 10 all day.

She will attend the Trooping of the Colour on Saturday and is expected to go to Chequers in the afternoon returning to No 10 on Sunday evening. At 10 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, the Attorney General and CDS) ending at 11.15 am.

At 2.30 pm Prince Saud, Saudi Foreign Minister, will call on the Prime Minister for about 30 minutes at his request to discuss recent events in the Lebanon. We believe he will be delivering a letter from King Khalid who is President of the Gulf Co-operation Council. At 3.15 pm Prince Saud will meet the Foreign Secretary.

IN THE HOUSE

There are no statements today.

ANSWERS OF INTEREST

No 7 Written, 11.30 am: Mr John Grant to ask the Prime Minister if she will set up an independent inquiry into the handling of the Falklands Islands conflict by the Ministry of Defence Information Services and by other Government Information Services; and if she is satisfied with the co-ordination. (Answer will say that the Prime Minister is satisfied with the existing arrangements.)

No 18 Written, 11.30 am: Mr Harvey Proctor to ask the Prime Minister if she will pay an official visit as soon as practicable to the Falkland Islands. (Answer will say she will consider as soon as British administration has been restored.)

No 35 Written, 11.30 am, from yesterday's Order Paper: Mr George Robertson to ask the Prime Minister if she will arrange for the return of the bodies of British soldiers killed in the Falkland Islands for burial in the UK. (Answer will say a final decision will be made after all relevant factors have been taken into account, including the views of the next of kin.)

Department of Employment are announcing at noon today the abolition of the second batch of 8 Industrial Training Boards.

Department of Energy are announcing the formal opening of the enquiry on 24 July into the Sizewell B power station (10.30 am).

FALKLANDS

On the comments yesterday made by the Prime Minister and Mr Nott about Tuesday's casualties, we said that both were right. We explained that the Prime Minister in Bonn had said there was a need for accurate information, and that Mr Nott has made his statement for reasons of military security at that time.

We said we hoped MoD would be making a statement as early as possible giving details of casualty lists. We said that once the confusion of the effects of the attack have been sorted out these military reasons do not necessarily apply over a length of time and presumably the MoD's reasons of yesterday were no longer valid.

We explained that as experience has shown that first reports were not complete and it was essential to present accurate information. We said we knew of no plans for a Government statement.

We understood the Sir Galahad was far more seriously damaged than the Sir Tristram. We hoped that press reports of 70 dead were exaggerated.

NEW STATESMAN'S ARTICLE

We said the Prime Minister had been informed in Bonn yesterday of the publication of the extract of Jock Bruce Gardyne's letter. We believed the Prime Minister was unhappy about it and thought it was unfortunate.

We told the Lobby that the Prime Minister had not spoken to Mr Gardyne about his letter and was not likely to pursue the matter very urgently due to her very busy schedule of work.

We said the Private Office had been in touch with Mr Gardyne but no meeting has been arranged. He has not been in direct touch with the Prime Minister and he had not been asked to do so. We were not aware whether Mr Gardyne had offered his resignation and indicated that the Prime Minister was more likely to rebuke him rather than ask for his resignation.

MIDDLE EAST

We told the Lobby we welcome a ceasefire in the Middle East if indeed it has taken place, and read them an extract from the statement by the EC Heads of 9 June.

We confirmed that there would be a photo pool for Prince Saud's visit but were not able to indicate what precisely he will be saying to the Prime Minister. We said the Prime Minister had received a request on 7 June from King Khalid appealing for the UK's help towards bringing about a ceasefire and preventing further hostilities. We said Prince Saud had been in Bonn yesterday attempting to seek President Reagan's help and believed he would be in Paris today.