

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

At 1000 Mrs. Thatcher was greeting President and Mrs. William Tolbert of Liberia: the President is starting a four day official visit to Britain today. (He is also currently chairman of the Organisation of African Unity). Mrs. Thatcher will have talks at Downing Street starting at noon, followed by a lunch in his honour.

Before that - at 1030 - Mrs. Thatcher and Lord Carrington started talks with US Secretary of State Cy Vance.

Prime Minister will be working at No. 10 this afternoon: there is the likelihood of a meeting of Ministers later this afternoon.

Tonight she will dine with the Association of American Correspondents in London.

IN THE HOUSE

- * The Attorney General will make a statement on the Bingham Report. (We did not expect him to reopen the affair to any great extent).

NUCLEAR INDUSTRY STATEMENT

We expected this on Wednesday.

NATIONALISED INDUSTRY TARGETS

Not this week.

NEW PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS

Press Conference on Wednesday, 12 December, taken by the Chancellor of the Duchy. Lobby were reminded that the Chancellor of the Duchy had said last week that there was no decision and there would be problems finding the money.

AW

- * 1210 - Bingham Statement postponed: now expected later this week (Source: Nick Sanders).

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

This morning's briefing was repeated.

A meeting of Ministers began at 1600. Present:

Prime Minister

Home Secretary	Foreign Secretary MINISTER OF STATE
Chancellor of the Exchequer	S/S for Industry
S/S for Employment	S/S for the Environment
S/S for Trade	Chief Secretary, Treasury
S/S for Scotland	S/S for Wales.

ADDITION TO THE WHITE PAPER LIST

Wednesday, 12 December: Presentation at 1100 and publication at 1430 of the Public Accounts Committee Command Paper (Energy Overpayments).

IRAN

Discussed at this morning's meeting between the Prime Minister, Lord Carrington and Secretary of State Vance. Lobby were reminded of Mr. Vance's remarks after the meeting in which he spoke of the (UK) spirit of helpfulness and co-operation. In counselling caution to the Lobby in what they wrote, we reminded them that at least 50 American lives were at stake (and this did not take account of Britons still in Iran). We took the view that we could achieve more in the present situation by not doing anything in public. We did not wish to prejudice the situation. We were confident that the Prime Minister would not go any further in her remarks to the American correspondents at dinner tonight.

EEC

So far, no bilaterals with EEC partners had been organised or even broached in the new year. Lobby could assume that a great deal of work was going on in Whitehall and that there would also be contact with the Italians who would next have the presidency. The Prime Minister had not changed her mind - there was no new stance on her part. Mrs. Thatcher was continuing to review our situation - and the examination in Whitehall would centre on how to maximise "Euro-receipts" without increasing the budget. Mr. Lawson had voted the way he had, because we had not wanted to go to Dublin breathing "fire and brimstone" but rather in a spirit of compromise.

NORTHERN IRELAND TALKS

The idea of holding these before Christmas has not been abandoned.

/NUCLEAR STATEMENT ..

NUCLEAR STATEMENT

Still expected Wednesday - but it might slip to Thursday.

NUCLEAR THEATRE FORCES

We hoped that Wednesday's NATO meeting would see agreement reached.

AW