

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister is in Scotland today visiting various Governmental and industrial establishments.

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REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT POLICY

We did not expect a statement to be made this week but it was likely that proposals would be put to Cabinet by the Secretary of State for Industry before the Recess.

IMMIGRATION POLICY

We did not know if there would be a statement on immigration policy before the Recess.

BOAT PEOPLE

We said that there was no formal link between immigration policy and any future decision about taking in Indo-Chinese refugees. It was natural though that the two subjects should sometimes be taken together. For example, at Tokyo, Heads of Government had committed themselves to considering taking in more refugees, subject to the economic and social situations in their particular countries.

We did not yet know whether there would be a statement on the Government's position concerning refugees before the U.N. Conference in Geneva took place. We thought it was likely that Lord Carrington would attend the Conference but no decision had yet been taken on this, nor had the Cabinet yet had the opportunity to consider the Government's tactics/strategy for Geneva. The speculation about the Government's thinking in one paper today (Guardian) was therefore at best premature. Lord Carrington may well have made some of the points mentioned in that article but the Government's policy was still to be debated and ratified.

We confirmed that there would be a meeting of Cabinet tomorrow and that the Prime Minister would be seeing Dr. Waldheim at 1700 tomorrow.

TAXES ON DRINK

We said that Sir George Young's remarks yesterday about taxes on alcoholic drinks were not meant to represent a commitment by Government to a new policy. The extent to which alcoholic drinks should be taxed was now being debated and Sir George's remarks should be seen in that context.

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This morning's briefing was repeated.

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH BISHOP MUZOREWA

We confirmed that this would be taking place at 1445 on Friday, 13 July and correspondents would be right in thinking that it would last about an hour. It was unlikely that we would have much to say on our side after the meeting.

We subsequently told the Lobby that Bishop Muzorewa would arrive in Britain at 2100 on Thursday, 12 July and would be staying at the Hyde Park Hotel. His visit to London is being organised by the UANC representative in London, Eugene Robinson (Tel. 837 8713). Enquiries about Bishop Muzorewa's movements should therefore be referred to Mr. Robinson.

HANGING

There had been no change in the Prime Minister's personal views about capital punishment.

COMPETITION BILL

We expected the Competition Bill to be put before the House this week, perhaps on Friday.