

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

A meeting of the Defence and Overseas Policy Committee was in progress. Cabinet would meet at 11 a.m: absentees would be the Home Secretary, who was accompanying the Queen on a visit to the Isle of Man, the Lord Chancellor, who was receiving an Honorary Degree at St. Andrew's University and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster had not arrived. The Prime Minister was taking Questions this afternoon.

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MORTGAGES

No development was expected. A meeting of the JAC (officials - not Ministers) was to be held at Marsham Street this morning. We were not dissenting from today's stories which were suggesting that we should "wait a bit", and we repeated yesterday's briefing stating that there would be no intervention. One should not assume that this subject would come up in Cabinet.

MPS' PAY

We were unable to give further guidance until the Chancellor of the Duchy made his statement today but we would guess that there would be a motion on the Order Paper.

INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

We could not help on a likely publication date.

ROYAL COMMISSION ON NHS

We still understood likely publication would be mid-July.

HGR

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

This morning's briefing was repeated.

Lord Harlech saw the Prime Minister briefly this morning. He had finished his present programme of visits but he could undertake more if required to.

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PRIME MINISTER'S QUESTIONS

The follow-up to the Prime Minister's far from idle aside about answering a wider range of Questions was not simple. It was undesirable to take away Questions from Departmental Ministers and the present system of open-ended Questions had the advantage of eliciting topical information from the Prime Minister in an orderly way.

HGR