LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 3.7.79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Mrs. Thatcher will be in the House for Questions this afternoon and will be making a statement on the Tokyo Summit.

Later she will have talks with President Turbay of Colombia who will be guest of honour at dinner at Downing Street tonight.

CHOGM - LUSAKA

The Prime Minister stands by what she said in Australia - namely that the Queen's safety is of paramount concern.

British security experts have been in touch with their Zambian counterparts: we are not relying solely on reports - we have had representatives in Zambia to assess the situation, as well as looking at arrangements for the conference generally.

There has not yet been a final report on which a final decision can be based and there is nothing at present to suggest that the Prime Minister will advise the Queen not to travel to Lusaka. We hope that a decision will be taken by the time left for Africa. The situation could, of course, change while she was in Tanzania, Botswana and Malawi. We repeat: there is at present no negative advice to tender. The Queen has let it be known that she intends to go.

SIR KEITH JOSEPH

His promised statement on denationalisation is still expected before the House rises.

MPS' PAY

No guidance to offer. The Government's position has not changed. It could be considered at Thursday's Cabinet but we do not think this necessary.

AW

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 3.7.79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

This morning's briefing was repeated.

CHOGM - LUSAKA

The Prime Minister had given the constitutional position. No decision to give negative advice would be taken this week. It was desirable to give the last minute advice before the Queen left for Africa, but if further information became available later this could mean advice being given after the Queen had started her visit. It was agreed the safety of the Queen could be discussed when Bishop Muzorewa met the Prime Minister. In any visit like this, involving both the Queen and the Prime Minister, there would be an examination on site about safety and the President of Zambia must provide the protection and assurance. No Prime Minister would give advice in a fluid situation a month before the Conference. Any decision to change the Conference venue was a matter for the Commonwealth Secretariat.

RHODESIA

The decision about sanctions was intrinsic to a return to legality, which was the aim of the Government.

HGR