

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Cabinet met at 1030. All were present. The Prime Minister will take Questions in the House this afternoon and will remain for the debate on the Rhodesia Bill. At 1700 hours she will have talks with President Kaunda (who arrived in Britain this morning and was met at Heathrow by Lord Carrington). Lord Carrington will also be present at the talks. At 2000 there will be a working dinner for President Kaunda. Buckingham Palace have announced that the President will see the Queen at 1430.

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

At 1530 there will be the business statement, followed by a procedural motion on the Rhodesia Bill. (The motion allows the 10 o'clock rule to be suspended. It also allows the House to resolve itself into Committee). This is followed by Second Reading; Debate on the Money Resolution; Committee Stage and, if no amendments, to Third Reading.

We doubted that there would be an announcement on the Governor Designate for Rhodesia before the enabling bill had been passed through the House. We were not prepared to be drawn on whether the appointment had not yet ^{been made}. On this whole subject of Rhodesia, it was best to proceed one step at a time.

British Aerospace Bill will be published today; a press conference will be given by Mr. Adam Butler at the Department of Industry at 5 o'clock.

The Second Reading in the House of Lords of the Bill of Rights Bill.

An answer of substance to Question No. 12 from Peter Viggers - widows of pre-1950 servicemen (down from Warrant Officer 1) to receive a pension from next Monday of between £21-£35. We were unable to give a precise figure of how much this would cost since the actual number of those entitled to receive the pension is not known. (We understand that it is approximately 30,000).

GAS PRICES

We said it was well-known that domestically gas was under-priced. However, the amount by which the price will rise is still under discussion and no decision has been reached.

The Department of Energy are not anticipating anything like a 40 per cent rise by next April.

ROLLS ROYCE/NEB

It was well-known that there were certain tensions in the relationships involving Rolls-Royce. Dept. of Industry were denying that Sir Keith had been, or is being, sacked. It was true that the future relationship between Rolls Royce and NEB was under consideration.

LETTER FROM CHINESE DISSIDENTS

The PM had not yet received the original of the letter published in one paper this morning but we had been sent a copy. We then gave the briefing as circulated to press officers.

DR. ADAMI, LEADER OF MALTESE NATIONALIST PARTY

With reference to a report of criticism of the Prime Minister's meeting with Dr. Adami yesterday, we said that it was quite normal for Prime Ministers to meet leaders of Opposition Parties from democratic countries.

The visit had been arranged some time ago. Dr Adami's courtesy call on the PM lasted 15 minutes.

JL