

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister met Roy Jenkins at 10.00 am as part of the preparations for the Dublin Summit. Jenkins was in Paris talking to Giscard over the weekend. He had an earlier meeting with the PM some weeks ago. Later this morning the PM visited the Department of Employment, one of a series of visits to Departments (previous visits: Energy; DHSS; Scottish Office, Edinburgh). She was due to have a meeting with Ministers this afternoon and is expected to be in the House to vote in the Opposition motions on mortgages and the NEB.

STATEMENT

The PM will be making a statement this afternoon on political honours. The statement had nothing to do with hereditary honours. We were not being drawn in any link with the New Year's Honours List.

POINTS FROM QUESTIONS

- i Jenkins visit: It was not necessarily a recent development; and was of no enormous significance.
- ii Mortgages: We expected a row and no emollient statements.
- iii BL: HMG not involved. It was for BL to sort out its own problems. Questions about an Edwardes' resignation were hypothetical.
- iv Cabinet: Would be on Wednesday because PM would be in Dublin on Thursday.
- v N Ireland: We did not expect there would be time for bilateral talks with Mr Lynch on N Ireland except possibly in the margins of the Summit.
- vi Iran: HMG was in touch with the US. The EEC was in touch too (and issued a statement last week). Waldheim was not being hysterical when he said that it was the most serious threat since the Cuban missile crisis. It was a very serious situation. Lives were at stake and there were all the ramifications involving oil.
- vii Obscenity report: We have not seen it yet. Wait for it.
- viii Summit: We explained the ^{provenance} ~~provenance~~ of the "fleecing" quote.

FOOTNOTE

Later: Mr Jenkins with the PM for about an hour. The PM was very firm in setting out the UK objectives and requirements. Mr Jenkins was now believed to be on his way to another capital (Dublin?).

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The morning Lobby was repeated.

HONOURS STATEMENT:

Political Honours were abolished on 27 October 1966, reinstated in the New Year Honours in 1971, abolished again in March 1974 and now reinstated on 26 November 1979. The Political Honours Scrutiny Committee consists of Lord Shackleton, Lord Carr and Lord Franks.

MR JENKINS' VISIT:

We went over the Summit ground yet again. We also explained the differences between the EEC's calendar financial year and the UK financial year (from 1 April - 31 March). We explained that while that additional time was useful it was more important to have the political will to reach a decision at Dublin.