

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 16.10.79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

At 1000 the Prime Minister met representatives of the British Council of Churches. (The meeting was at their request: they wished to discuss unemployment, Southern Africa, aid for refugees and Scotland).

There would be a meeting of Ministers this afternoon. This evening the Prime Minister would have an audience of the Queen. Later Mrs. Thatcher would dine and speak at Lincoln's Inn. It was unlikely that we would have an advance text.

PRESS NOTICE

Re-appointment of David Mackenzie Wilson as a Governor of the Museum of London.

COMMON AGRICULTURAL POLICY

Our position was clear. Based on the Commission's own findings following the Strasbourg Council, we now looked to the Dublin Council for a decision on Britain's budget contribution. It was wrong to interpret our position on a possible refund as an invitation to be turned down by France and Germany.

ELECTRICITY DISCOUNT SCHEME

This had been considered by Cabinet - decisions had been taken. There would be a statement soon after the House re-assembles. Lobby would hear then that the scheme had been changed.

COMPETITION BILL

This would be near the top of the queue when the House returned (the 2nd reading debate on this Bill had been in progress when the House broke for the Summer recess).

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LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 16.10.79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

This morning's briefing was repeated.

A meeting of Ministers began at 1430.

Present:

Prime Minister

S/S for Industry
S/S for the Environment
S/S for Employment
S/S for Trade
Minister of Transport

Home Secretary
S/S for Scotland
S/S for Social Services
Chancellor of the Exchequer
Chief Secretary, Treasury

Minister of State, MOD
(Lord Strathcona)
Minister of State, Northern Ireland
(Hugh Rossi)
PUSS, Welsh Office (Michael Roberts)
PUSS, MAFF (Gerry Wiggin)
PUSS, Department of Energy (Norman Lamont)
Sir Kenneth Berrill, Head of CPRS

THIS AFTERNOON'S MEETING

More than one subject was discussed : rate support grant and public spending cuts were not.

IMMIGRATION CONTROLS

We did not know what form the announcement would take.

BREZHNEV LETTER (Yesterday's call by Lunkov)

Still being studied: it would also be considered by the NATO Council: any response would therefore be a corporate one.

RHODESIA/ZIMBABWE TALKS

The Foreign Secretary was expected to brief the Prime Minister later today.

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