

PRIME MINISTER

PA  
MS

IRAN: PARLIAMENTARY HANDLING

Peter Shore asked the Lord Privy Seal, at the end of his PNQ today, to make a further statement on Monday. Subject to Ian Gilmour's own views, I think that it will be very difficult to resist that request and that we should not attempt to do so if events move on over the weekend - as they are bound to do. You are to make your statement about the Luxembourg meeting on Tuesday. On Monday and Tuesday the House will be debating the Defence White Paper.

I expect that there will be demands from different sides of the House for a very early debate on Iran in addition to all of this. If the situation looks as serious after the weekend as it does today, I think that there would be a lot to be said for providing some time on Tuesday by inspiring an SO 9 request on Monday and making it clear to the Speaker that we would have no objection to his granting it. It could then be held immediately after your statement on Tuesday, and we could if pressed extend the Defence Debate until 2330 on Tuesday.

Subject to the views of the Chief Whip, the Leader of the House and the Lord Privy Seal, would you be content for us to seek to meet the degree of Parliamentary pressure we expect by engineering an SO 9 debate in this way? If we do not do something like this, we will run into pressure for a debate in Government time and we cannot spare that time.

Sch It is too soon to MS

P Judge. Gray

by further demand of the time

Tuesday statement might suffice

Monday evening why not include Foreign

affairs in Tuesday's defence debate. or

25 April 1980