LOBBY BRIEFING

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

10.30 a.m. - Ministers' meeting began. Those present:-

Prime Minister

Home Secretary	Chancellor of the Exchequer
Secretary of State for Industry	Lord President of the
Secretary of State for Employment	Council
Secretary of State for Trade	Secretary of State for the
Chief Secretary, Treasury	Environment.

Those present for the <u>first part</u> of the meeting were:-

Secretary of State for Scotland	Financial Secretary to
Attorney General	the Treasury.

Those attending <u>later</u> would be:-

Paymaster General	Secretary of State for Wales
Secretary of State for Defence	Minister of State, Civil Service
Secretary of State for Transport	Department.

The Prime Minister would take Questions this afternoon. His Excellency Mr. Kidron, the Israeli Ambassador would pay a farewell visit to the Prime Minister this afternoon. Mr. Jim Scott-Hopkins, M.P., Leader of the Conservative Group in the European Parliament, would call on the Prime Minister this afternoon. General Rogers, Supreme Allied Commander Europe, would call on the Prime Minister this evening.

PRESS NOTICE

We issued a press notice announcing the new Bishop Suffragan of Knaresborough.

IN THE HOUSE

2 Written Answers of Substance this afternoon:-

1.   <u>No. 174.</u>   A very lengthy one by the Secretary of State for the Environment at 2.30 p.m. identifying 15 areas for test bore drilling for the dumping of radio-active waste.

2.   <u>No. 177,</u> by the Minister of Transport at 3.30 p.m. giving the Chairman and membership of a Committee of Enquiry into Heavy Lorries.

STATEMENTS

1.   <u>Dispersal</u> - very unlikely today and unable to say if it would be made later this week.

2.   <u>BNOC</u> - the only one on the horizon.

3.   <u>Post Office</u> - definitely no statement this week.

4.   <u>QUANGOs</u> - options were:-

a)   Departments would reach conclusions about
     their own QUANGOs in their own time and
     announce them, as and when.

b)   The Government would make one announcemnt
     to cover them all after consideration by
     each Department.

We thought a) was more likely than b).

(Acronymic statements were expected seriatim).

VEHICLE EXCISE LICENCE

Its future was being examined but one had to remember that, if
it was abolished, there would still be a need for car registration
and there would be a rise in the cost of petrol. We thought that the
instinct was to abolish it.

HGR