

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Cabinet began at 1000 - the only absentees were John Nott (in the Far East), Lord Soames (Salisbury) and Angus Maude (indisposed). Lord Ferrers also present at Cabinet, representing the Lord President.

The Prime Minister would answer Questions this afternoon and stay on for the Motion on the Adjournment "The role of nuclear weapons in Britain's defence policy". As far as we knew, no formal and final decision had been taken by Ministers on the successor to Polaris and Ministry of Defence were therefore guiding against any definitive statement on this point in this afternoon's debate.

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PRESIDENT CARTER'S STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

(See Bernard Ingham's minute to Mr. Sanders, attached).

AFGHANISTAN

The Foreign Secretary would be making a statement this afternoon in the Lords at about 1520 (Ian Gilmour in the Commons after the Business Statement) reporting on his trip to South-west Asia and outlining some measures to be taken in our relations with the Soviet Union. We expected Lord Carrington's statement to cover the main features of that relationship but not necessarily to announce decisions today in every field.

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00

date: 24.1.80

This morning's briefing was repeated.

## RELATIONS WITH THE SOVIET UNION

As examples of cultural events that were likely to be cancelled as a result of the Soviet action were a tour of this country by the Red Army Choir in May and June and the withdrawal of an offer of <sup>Govt support for a</sup> Soviet Film Week in April, ~~which was to have had Government support.~~

## OLYMPICS

We gave a brief account of Sir Denis Follows' letter but stressed that correspondents should seek a full text from the British Olympic Association.

CVA