

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister is working at No. 10 this morning and will be going to the House for the election of the Speaker this afternoon. This evening Mrs. Thatcher has an Audience of the Queen (operational use only).

A further announcement of the appointment of Whips to both Houses was made.

We confirmed that Mrs. Thatcher would be speaking in Scotland at the Scottish Conservative Party Conference on Saturday, 12 May.

The Prime Minister had no plans for broadcasts in the next few days and we knew of no plan for her to meet with the 22 Committee.

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POLITICAL STAFF AT NO. 10

The appointments of Mr. David Wolfson as Chief of Staff in the Prime Minister's Political Office and Mr. Richard Ryder as Political Secretary were made by Central Office, so we suggested that any questions about their appointments should be addressed to Derek Howe who was working in No. 10 (although we could not confirm what his official position would be). As far as we knew, Messrs. Wolfson and Ryder would be paid out of Party funds.

GOVERNMENT'S PROGRAMME

We could not yet offer any more guidance on the form of the Queen's Speech or the likely timing of the Budget. The Cabinet meeting to be held tomorrow, Thursday, 10 May, would be the first full formal Cabinet meeting to consider the Government's programme.

MOVING INTO NO. 10

The position was still the same as yesterday: the Prime Minister has not yet decided to move in to live at No. 10.

CVA

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

This morning's announcements were repeated.

The call being made by the Prime Minister of the Irish Republic at 3.30 on Thursday, 10 May would be a courtesy call, likely to last about half an hour. The Prime Minister's meetings with Chancellor Schmidt on 10/11 May were part of a regular series of meetings between the two Heads of Government and would tackle matters of substance. The Prime Minister was preparing herself for these meetings with Chancellor Schmidt and would be fully briefed.

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BUDGET DATE

Although a decision on the date of the Budget might be taken at tomorrow's Cabinet, any announcement was likely to be made in Parliament.

TALKS WITH THE TUC

As far as we knew, meetings between the Government and the TUC had not yet been fixed.

SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND

Asked what special attributes Humphrey Atkins might have for his new job as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, we drew attention to the Prime Minister's remarks at Lobby on 5 May when she pointed out that Mr. Atkins knew all the politicians concerned at Westminster with Northern Ireland which was a great advantage. Secondly, Mr. Atkins had no special ties or alignments with the various groups involved in Northern Ireland.