

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Cabinet met at 10.30. All were present.

Prime Minister's Questions this afternoon. The Prime Minister would sit in on today's debate. There was to be a general statement by the Secretary of State for Industry on the future of the NEB followed by a Press Conference at 6 p.m. This would follow the Business Statement. The Prime Minister would visit Nottingham tomorrow morning and Birmingham at lunchtime accompanied by Henry James. The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka would have talks with the Prime Minister at 5.30 p.m. today.

DEATH PENALTY

The Prime Minister would vote as expected. Her record of vote on this subject was:

- 1964 - Abolition of the Death Penalty Bill - against.
- 1974 - Whether death should be a penalty - for.
- 1975 - Whether capital punishment should be brought in for terrorist murders - for.

DISPERSAL

We were unable to give any guidance on decisions taken following a meeting last night in the House between the Prime Minister and Tory MPs from Scotland.

STATEMENTS

- a) Shipbuilding (early next week).
- b) The Lobby could assume that there would probably be a-statement-a-day next week. But we could not help them in their speculation about subjects or Departments as these depended on the outcome of meetings not yet held.

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 5.00

date: 19.7.79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

This morning's briefing was repeated. We were unable to help the Lobby in their speculation about statements other than to agree that subjects to be covered by statements next week might be dispersal, including the proposed move of MSC, and shipbuilding.

MR. PYM'S RETURN

We thought that the Secretary of State for Defence had intended to visit Ottawa after America but he returned direct from America to attend today's meeting of the Cabinet. We explained that when he was planning the visit the precise agenda for today's Cabinet meeting might not have been known.

LUSAKA

The Government has a view about its strategy for Lusaka and this will deal with more subjects than Rhodesia. The Prime Minister would speak in next week's debate on Southern Africa. Definitive decisions on Rhodesia would not be taken at Lusaka which would form part of the consultative process.

HGR