

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 28.8.79

The Prime Minister has a meeting at 11.00 with the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Lord Privy Seal. There is unlikely to be anything to report following this meeting.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland is in Northern Ireland this morning and will be reporting in person to the Prime Minister later today. It is not yet known whether Mr. Atkins will issue a statement.

As might be expected, no details will be given on questions of individual security arrangements.

The funeral will be 5 or 6 September, more probably 5 September. The Earl Marshal's and the Lord Chamberlain's Offices will be handling arrangements. Firm details are not yet known.

There has been no contact between the PM and the Government of the Republic.

It is unlikely that Parliament will be recalled.

Details, as they become known, will be passed on to the Lobby.

The Cabinet will meet on Thursday.

JL

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 16.00 date: TUESDAY
28 AUGUST

The morning Lobby was repeated.

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland will report to the PM about 6 pm on the steps the security forces are taking; the Home Secretary, the Secretary of State for Defence and the Lord Privy Seal will also be present.

[The Northern Ireland Office had issued a statement of the Secretary of State's itinerary at about 12.30.]

Any statement following the meeting will be passed on to the Lobby.

Questions of security were again raised. It was stressed that no questions would be answered nor information given on the security arrangements for individual ministers or public figures. The responsibility for exercising security for Earl Mountbatten had been the Irish Government's; the British Government had responsibility for security in Northern Ireland.

There is as yet no news on whether new political initiatives will be taken. However, yesterday's events obviously had made the Government's task in finding a political solution more difficult.

No meeting had been arranged between the British and Irish Governments. Both Governments were at present fact-finding. Until the facts are gathered and an assessment made there is unlikely to be anything to say.

Two Ulster Unionist MPs (Bradford and Molyneux) were handing in a letter to the PM at 5 pm. No details of the contents were available.

JL