

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 18.5.79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister was launching the Conservative Party's European Manifesto at Central Office this morning. She would be spending the weekend privately at Chequers. As far as we knew, there were no meetings planned over the weekend.

THE ECONOMY AND THE BUDGET

Asked about the front page stories in the Guardian, Telegraph and Financial Times about the pressures on the economy and the implications for the Budget, we said that we believed that nothing said at the Lobby yesterday afternoon could possibly justify the story being given such weight. Nor did we think there was anything said at yesterday's Lobby to suggest that there would be a major shift in economic policy by the Government.

RHODESIA

Sir Antony Duff would be back from his mission from Rhodesia in time to report to Lord Carrington before his meetings with Mr. Vance on 21/22 May.

LIVING AT NO. 10

The Prime Minister had not yet taken a decision to move into No. 10 but we would be surprised if she did not do so in due course.

CVA