

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00

date: 22.1.80

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

A meeting of Ministers took place from 0930 - 1130 during which Afghanistan, amongst other things, would have been discussed.

The following were present:

	Prime Minister	
Foreign Secretary		S/S for the Environment
Lord Chancellor		S/S for Energy
Home Secretary		Attorney General
Chancellor of the Exchequer		Minister of State, MAFF
S/S for Defence		Minister of State, Trade
S/S for Industry		

The Prime Minister would be in the House for Questions this afternoon.

PRESS NOTICES

1. Knighthood conferred upon The Hon. Mr. Justice Russell on appointment as Justice of the High Court of Justice.
2. Sir John Gilmour appointed Lord-Lieutenant, Fife Region.
3. Rev. David Apps appointed to Vicarage of Charlestown.
4. Rev. Trevor Smyth appointed to Diocese of Lichfield.
5. Appointment of Suffragan See of Warwick.

BUDGET DATE

We confirmed that Ministers were considering a change in the date for the Budget and an announcement could be expected this afternoon either during or immediately after Questions in the form of a statement. We did not know whether the announcement would be made by the Prime Minister or another member of the Government. We thought it unlikely that the Budget would be changed by as much as a week - a matter of days was more likely.

We pointed out that Tuesday would have been a difficult day anyway for the Prime Minister to attend the enthronement, since she must be in the House to answer Questions. As far as we were aware,

the Church Authorities had not been in touch with the Prime Minister's Office about the clash of dates.

OLYMPICS

We said that we had not yet had a reply from the Canadian Government on the practicality of resiting the Olympic Games in Montreal. The Government's position remained clear that, if it were possible, it would certainly make an impact on the Soviet Union if the site of the Games could be changed. But we had never underestimated the difficulties involved in shifting the site. Of course, the Government were a little disappointed at the lack of cohesion on this issue amongst the Allies but it was not a picture of unrelieved gloom - we had, for instance, just heard that the Australian Prime Minister had come out in favour of a change of venue.

OTHER

MEASURES AGAINST THE SOVIET UNION

The Government was still conducting its review of relations with the Soviet Union. We expected a statement fairly soon but could not speculate on its exact timing or its content.

STEEL

We repeated our briefing of the past few days.

CVA