

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

A meeting of Ministers at which the following were present began at 11.00:-

Prime Minister

Chancellor of the Exchequer	S/S for Trade
Home Secretary	S/S for Employment
Lord President	S/S for the Environment
S/S for Industry	

The Lobby could safely assume that the meeting did not have any immediate significance and that it had not been called suddenly to deal with an urgent matter: it had been on the diary since the beginning of last week.

We said that the Prime Minister would be sitting in on the Budget Debate this afternoon (but there has now been a change and she will not be doing this but working at No. 10 this afternoon).

PNQs RUNNING

Recognition of the new Government in Ghana (Peter Emery).

Malaysian appeal for help over Vietnamese refugees (David Ennals).

MINISTERS' AND MPS' SALARIES

The meeting between the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition had not yet been finalised. The earliest that an announcement of the Government's attitude to the Report could be made would be Thursday (on the assumption correspondents had made that the Report might well be considered at Cabinet on Wednesday). When asked what would be the most likely timing for a Government announcement on this subject, we pointed out that, if the Prime Minister wished to be present, which was a fair assumption, then the most likely days would be early next week, before she travelled to Tokyo.

TREASURY DOCUMENT ON UNEMPLOYMENT

We drew attention to the Chief Secretary's statement about this so-called secret document and pointed out that no-one had been able to trace any document in circulation containing figures of the order suggested by Sunday's press.

MEETING WITH THE TUC

No meeting had yet been fixed between the Prime Minister and the TUC - it was still a question of finding a time that was mutually convenient to both of them.

HANGING

No date had yet been fixed for the Debate on this subject.

SELECT COMMITTEES

It was possible that the Leader of the House would table proposals today for the establishment of Select Committees.

? ARTS MINISTRY

Asked to comment on the report in the Guardian that a new Arts Ministry had been established, we said that the Prime Minister was not aware of any such proposal. As far as we knew, the Prime Minister had no intention of changing the machinery of Government in such a way or of giving the Cabinet Office departmental status for the Arts (as had been suggested in the Guardian), or of hiving off parts of the Department of Education and Science to deal with the Arts. Neither did we know of any intention of establishing a separate Press Office to deal with the Arts.

INDUSTRIAL STRATEGY

There might be an announcement of the Government's industrial strategy in the first half of July, perhaps in the form of a White Paper. The announcement would certainly contain firm proposals for an industrial strategy rather than being merely a consultative document.

CVA

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This morning's briefing was repeated. In addition, Mrs. Thatcher would receive a first call from the Commonwealth Secretary General, Shridath Ramphal.

MPS' AND MINISTERS' PAY

We expected Mrs. Thatcher to meet Mr. Callaghan this week.

MEETING WITH TUC ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

This was presently being fixed. It would not take place this week but would happen before the Tokyo Summit (28-29 June).

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