

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Cabinet began meeting at 10.30 - all present. (Lobby could assume that in future this would mean that Mr. Norman Fowler and the Chief Whip were present unless otherwise stated). This afternoon the Prime Minister would be present at the Commons for the swearing in of new Members. At 3.30 Mrs. Thatcher would receive a courtesy call from the Irish Prime Minister, Mr. Lynch, and at 5.30 Helmut Schmidt would arrive at the start of his official visit. There would be a dinner at Downing Street tonight in Herr Schmidt's honour, followed by more talks starting at 10.30 tomorrow morning. We expected the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, the Secretary of State for Defence and possibly the Lord Privy Seal to be present at these talks.

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CABINET

The agenda was short and of a general nature. The question of a Budget date might arise but we did not expect an announcement today. It was the hope that the Queen's Speech would be finalised at the end of Cabinet, subject to one or two drafting amendments.

ARMED FORCES' PAY

An announcement could come very soon - perhaps today.

CABINET COMMITTEES

These had now been set up - no, we would not be giving the membership.

MR. DAVID WOLFSON

He would not attend Cabinet meetings.

"INNER CABINET COMMITTEE"?

There was no such body.

CONTACT WITH "NON MINISTERS"

We could not say if Mrs. Thatcher had been in contact with MPs and others who might have hoped for a post in her administration.

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This morning's briefing was repeated. Copies of tonight's speech and the guest list were distributed.

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BUDGET

We could give no guidance on the likely timing of a Budget date announcement.

17-MONTH SESSION?

This seemed sensible speculation.

2 WEEK EUROPOLL RECESS?

Again, a reasonable assumption.

TALKS WITH HERR SCHMIDT

Without going into great detail, Lobby could assume that these would be an occasion for a mutual assessment of attitudes to Europe and an opportunity for the Prime Minister to explain her philosophy.

PRIME MINISTER'S PLANS FOR THE WEEKEND

After addressing the Scottish Conservatives at Perth on Saturday, we understood Mrs. Thatcher would be spending Sunday at Chequers.

PRESS NOTICES

Appointment of William van Straubenzee as Second Church Estates Commissioner.

Appointment of Sir Kenneth Clucas to be Permanent Secretary at the Department of Trade.

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