

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS:

Cabinet met at 10.30: all present. Cabinet ended at 1240.

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

This evening - at 1800 - she will have talks with the Prime Minister of the Yeman Arab Republic, Mr Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani, who is on the second day of a five day official visit to Britain.

Tonight the Prime Minister will attend the Queen's Diplomatic reception at Buckingham Palace.

PRESS NOTICE:

Sir Lawreny Airey to be Chairman of the Board of Inland Revenue (Sir Lawrence is Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury: IR Chairman Sir William Pile retires at the end of the year).

IN THE HOUSE:

PNQ from Joan Lester: To ask the Lord Privy Seal if he will make a statement on the situation on the Island of Santo in the New Hebrides. (to be answered by Nicholas Ridley).

BLUNT

There would be answers to three Questions today:

Mr Arthur Lewis (Newham North West): To ask the Prime Minister, whether it was on her instructions that the Cabinet Office gave prior information to the solicitors of Mr Blunt of her intention of making a statement concerning his confession of being a spy; in how many cases in the past such action has been taken; why it was done in this case; and whether she will make a statement.

Mr Michael Meacher: To ask the Prime Minister, if she will take steps to ensure that deals proposed by the security services with persons suspected of grave security offences or any similar matters are in future brought to her personal attention for her own decision.

Mr Tony Marlow: To ask the Prime Minister, what is the policy with regard to the employment of homosexuals within the Security Services.

We did not think, after yesterday's Debate, that there was much more we could usefully go into. The Prime Minister had revealed the arrangements, the chain of command and the responsibilities in such situations. We would continue to guide against the idea of an inquiry being set up

BUILDING SOCIETIES

There may well have been contact between the BSA and DoE - but it would be wrong to construe this as an attempt to influence the outcome of today's BSA meeting.

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 22/11/79

The morning Lobby was repeated.

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