

PRIME MINISTER

HIGHLIGHTS

Weekend Interest

Digesting and assessing the impact of your visit to Washington, in particular on the economic front, will be a major subject of interest and the remarks on the strength of the Dollar by President Reagan as you departed will be seized on. Secondly, the story about the Channel 4 programme alleging MI5 phone-tapping will probably give rise to a lot of coverage and commentary. Thirdly, of course, the stalemate in the coal strike will continue to be centre stage. Mr Walker is issuing a statement tomorrow, and Mr Hunt will be on "This Week, Next Week" (Sunday, 13.00, BBC TV 2).

Key interviews/programmes on other matters include Mr Tam Dalyell on "The Week in Westminster" (Saturday, 13.10, Radio 4), Mr Timothy Raison on Sudan on BBC Radio "The World This Weekend", and Mr Denis Healey on "The Frost Interview" (Sunday, 9.00, TV AM).

Other Main Events

On Tuesday a public hearing opens on the food poisoning cases at the Stanley Royd Hospital, Wakefield; and the NAS/UWT teachers half-day strike takes place. On Wednesday you present Gold Star Awards given by the Daily Star; President Chernenko is due to deliver a speech accepting nomination to the Supreme Soviet; and Lord Young leads a trade mission to China and Hong Kong. On Thursday The Queen visits the Times to mark its bi-centenary; Andrei Gromyko visits Spain; the Franco-German Summit takes place in Paris and EC Foreign Ministers meet for a special session on enlargement and budget issues. On Friday Mr Lange debates nuclear policy at the Oxford Union; and you open a unit for NMR scanner, London.

In Parliament

On Monday the Rate Limitation (Prescribed Maximum Rates) Order comes before the House of Commons; and on Wednesday the House debates Local Authority Capital Expenditure. These two subjects apart, next week seems to be relatively quiet.

Key Daily Events

- Monday: "World in Action" (Thames 20.30) looks at reports that some US Customs Officers who are engaged in anti-terrorist activities may be sympathetic to IRA.
- Tuesday: Trade figures for January (11.30).
- Wednesday: MSC give evidence to Employment Select Committee on Commission's Corporate plan.
- Thursday: Treasury and FCO give evidence on oil pricing policy to Energy Select Committee (10.30); Trade and Industry Select Committee Report ECGD (11.00); Mr Norman Lamont on "Question Time" (BBC TV 10.20).
- Friday: Anniversary of closure of Cortonwood Colliery; two hour programme by LWT on the miners' strike (20.00).

MWN/bsj

NICOLAS TOWERS
PRESS OFFICE

22 February 1985