

PRIME MINISTER

RAPE MEETING - Media

I have not revealed today that you are to hold your meeting on this subject tomorrow but when pressed I have not ruled out a gathering this week.

I have no idea about what may come out of this meeting and we cannot say anything before we know the

conclusion

I shall, however, be chased at each Lobby and it would be sensible tomorrow morning (at 1100) to say your meeting is either taking place or has concluded. It would be useful to take credit for a meeting held as soon as possible after a weekend of serious Ministerial reflection on the subject and to brief on the outcome.

You may, of course, wish to save up a report on the meeting for your Question Time - not least as a means of distracting attention from the unemployment figures.

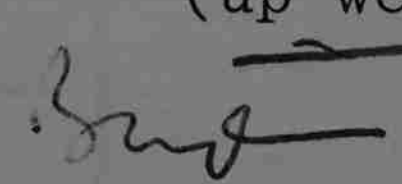
However, we could get the best of both worlds - my reporting to the Lobby that the meeting has taken place, who attended, what was discussed and giving some lead to the conclusions but suggesting that, if asked, you will give a fuller report during your Question Time.

Content therefore for me to brief at 1100 tomorrow to the extent that it is possible at that time or, as and when possible later, to feed out a little more and build up interest in your Question Time?

POLICE CUTS

So far as the AMA's threat is concerned, we have knocked down any idea of police cuts. Bob Carvel, in The Standard, said Mr. Whitelaw would tell the AMA tomorrow that there is no question of reducing the numbers.

The BBC this evening carried a similar report, plus figures I have been feeding out all day on the increase in police strength (up well over 6,500) since the Government took office.


BERNARD INGHAM
25 January 1982