

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11 am date: 23. 3.82

## PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is working in No 10 most of the day.

## MEETING OF MINISTERS

At 11.00 am the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of Ministers. Ē: Invergordon Smelter - New Power Project/ Present: the Prime Minister, Home Secretary, Chief Secretary, Secretaries of State for Trade, Energy, Transport, Employment, Wales, Scotland and Industry, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, Lord President, Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury, and the Lord Advocate.

## QUESTIONS

At 3.15 pm the Prime Minister will be in the House for Questions.

## ALGERIAN MPs

At 3.30 pm in the House the Prime Minister will meet a group of four Algerian MPs who are visiting the UK under the auspices of the IPU at the invitation of the Speaker and the Lord Chancellor. This will be a brief courtesy call. The group will see Mr Hurd on Thursday. Mr Luce will give them lunch the same day.

At the call on Mrs Thatcher the group will be accompanied by David Crouch MP.

## HAYWARD GALLERY

At 4.25 pm the Prime Minister will arrive at the Hayward Gallery where Mrs Gandhi is to open the "In the Image of Man" exhibition.

## INDO-BRITISH ASSOCIATION DINNER

Tonight at 8.15 pm the Prime Minister will go to the Dorchester for the Indo-British Dinner. Mrs Gandhi will attend and both will speak. We hoped to provide advance texts of the Prime Minister's speech this afternoon. It would deal with India's importance in the future of the world.

## AUDIENCE

Earlier, at 6.30 pm, the Prime Minister is hoping to have an Audience of The Queen.

## PRESS NOTICE

Appointment of the Reverend William Michael Dermot Persson as Suffragen Bishop of Doncaster. He is currently Vicar of Knutsford with Toft in the Diocese of Chester.

## IN THE HOUSE

### Statement

We thought there was a good chance of a statement on the Falkland Islands.

### Answers of Interest

No 132 Written: Mr K Harvey Proctor to ask S/S Education if he has seen the proposals of the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals for the structure of the academic profession and if he will make a statement. (Answer will welcome the initiative - now for individual universities to consider.)

No 127 Written 3.30 pm: Mr Peter Viggers to ask S/S Defence what further progress has been made to reshape the support elements of the Navy. (Answer, which will be referred to by Mr Pattie during Oral Questions today, will indicate proposals for a reshaping of the Navy's training structure following Mr Nott's review last year. This will produce closure of shore training establishments, including four in Portsmouth and one of Plymouth, and will place the emphasis on more training at sea - "on the job". Mr Peter Blaker will be taking a Press Conference on this, with the First Sea Lord, in MoD at 4.00 pm. Lobby members are welcome but should contact Mr Tony Fenn on 218-2629 if they wish to attend.)

A copy of the First Sea Lord's statement on these changes will be placed in the Library of the House and will be available at the Press Conference.

No 124 Written 3.30 pm: Mr John Corrie to ask S/S Scotland if he will make an announcement on the location of an enterprise allowance pilot scheme in Scotland. (Answer will announce a scheme at a location that will be mentioned in the answer. This scheme is the one under which unemployed people who can put £1,000 into an enterprise of their own will receive £40 a week from the Government to help run it.)

No 118 Written 3.30 pm: the Rev Martin Smith to ask S/S Northern Ireland if he will make a statement about the Final Report of the Chilver Committee on Higher Education in Northern Ireland.

No 120 Written 3.30 pm: Mr John Hannam to ask the S/S Energy how many disconnections took place in the gas and electricity industries in 1981 compared with 1980 and how many pre-payment meters were installed in place of credit meters. (Answer will show a reduction in disconnections reflecting a keener awareness on the part of the authorities of the problems to people from disconnection. Electricity disconnections down 11%, gas 33%.)

#### SELECT COMMITTEE REPORT ON MPs PAY

Published at 11.00 am.

#### UNEMPLOYMENT

We expected a welcoming statement from Mr Tebbit on this morning's figures. While the figure may well rise above 3 million again the rate of increase was slowing down very substantially.

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

We knew of no plans for a statement on electrons. The proposals would probably be considered later this week; we could give no guide to the timing of a subsequent statement. We were not prepared to discuss differences of opinion in the Party; Mr Prior had had clearance from Cabinet to go back and work on a White Paper and draft legislation. The Ulster parties were posturing as was to be expected. We thought very little of Molyneaux's allegations about CIA involvement - where was the evidence?

#### INVERGORDON

We confirmed this was under consideration today. There were formidable problems - that was why it had closed.

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