

PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is in Brussels for the second day of the European Council meeting. It is expected that the business of the day, which began at 10.00am might be over by lunchtime.

The PM will return to London this afternoon or during the early evening. Latest information suggests a mid-afternoon return.

PRESS NOTICE - CORRECTION

Yesterday's Press Notice on the Reception for Success - the date is Tuesday, 20 April, NOT Monday, 20 April.

IN THE HOUSESTATEMENT

Lord Carrington in the Lords (2.50pm) and Mr Luce in the Commons (3.30pm) will make Statements on the current situation and diplomatic moves over South Georgia. No particular announcement, simply a desire to keep the House informed - and Lord Carrington would obviously prefer to do this himself. There was a great deal of interest being shown in the situation and the most important European Council business had been covered the day before.

ANSWERS OF INTEREST

No 66 Written: Mr Christopher Murphy to ask S/S Environment if he has yet received the report of the Shadow Board set up to advise on the privatisation of the Hydraulics Research Station. (Answer will announce steps towards privatisation, with a holding company being formed initially)

No 92 (Friday's Order Paper) Written 3.30pm; Mr Iain Mills to ask S/S Transport if he has reached a decision on seeking to change the law relating to tyre tread depth and if he will make a statement. (Answer will indicate that curbs will be put on imports of inferior tyres not suitable for driven vehicles, and rules on depth of tread will be changed to cover tread depth over the whole tyre rather than the present three-quarters - consultation first).

No 63 Written 3.30pm: Mr John Corrie to ask S/S Scotland what progress has been made in connection with the integrated development programme for the Western Isles. (Answer will indicate go ahead - includes agriculture, forestry and tourism. £20m, with 40 per cent back from EC).

REPORT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR OF PRISONS FOR ENGLAND AND WALES 1981

Published at 3.30pm.

Mr Ian Gow will represent the Prime Minister at a Memorial Service for Viscount Blakenham at St Margaret's Westminster at 12 noon.

MEETING WITH HAUGHEY

In response to a question we confirmed that the PM had seen Mr Haughey for about 20 minutes in Brussels this morning at his request. They discussed the economic and social affairs raised at the European Council yesterday. Northern Ireland was not touched on though there was a passing reference to tomorrow's meeting between Mr Prior and Mr Collins, the Irish Foreign Minister. Asked if they had discussed the implications for the Irish Republic of reduced budget contributions from Britain we said we understood the Budget/Mandate question had not been an issue in their conversation.

HMS ENDURANCE

Asked about stories of a "reprieve" for HMS Endurance we said nothing to this effect had been announced and we saw no indication of it. However we reminded the lobby that the Lord President in his latest briefing had made it clear that the House would have a further opportunity to discuss the future of HMS Endurance.