

The morning Lobby was repeated.

PRIME MINISTER'S SPEECH

We drew attention to the omission by the Prime Minister of the last paragraph on page 24 of her speech. Asked why we said it was implicit in everything else that has been said.

Observed that both the Foreign Secretary and the UN Secretary General had said there would be little to be gained by a meeting now. Such a meeting could be arranged if both sides thought it useful.

BRITISH JOURNALISTS

We thought representations had been made by the Government through the Swiss Embassy on behalf of the captured journalists. We undertook to confirm if there had been a response.

ADMIRAL WOODWARD

Observed that we might have been better without his contributions. Not likely to be any more comment of this kind.

CABINET

Thursday Cabinet lasted 2½ hours. Falklands Cabinet one hour. Did not know why the Attorney General was present at Cabinet. Did not anticipate any more Cabinets before next Thursday.

PRIME MINISTER'S PLANS

Would probably spend the weekend at Chequers subject to developments.

CIVIL SERVICE PAY

The Lord President did not anticipate any problem arising during the next week which would prevent the anticipated Statement on Civil Service Pay. He said that the recommended pay award did not present any great problem to the Government, all things being relative.

ARMED SERVICE PAY

He was not sure whether there would be a Statement on Armed Service Pay. It had been considered.

BRITISH RAIL

Did not know if there would be a Statement on the proposed British Rail closures. Not able to agree to a debate on the subject, although it was a significant matter. Would get in touch with the Secretary of State for Transport about a Statement.

/Weekend Sitting

LOBBY BRIEFING

time:

date:

-2-

WEEKEND SITTING

Did not know whether it would be necessary to sit over the holiday weekend. Thought it likely that another debate on the Falklands would not be needed but recognised the propensity of the House for debate on the subject. It would not take an invasion by Britain to prompt another debate.

HAIG PROPOSALS

Did not know when the proposals would be revealed to the House and the press. That was a matter for Mr Haig. Recognised that it was inhibiting discussion not to know their contents. Today's debate was more constructive than might have been expected from the tone of Tuesday's exchange. Would not comment on the proposals acceptability to the British Government. Referred to PM's speech today which was "carefully drawn" and emphasised the "compromise" nature of the proposals. Noted the lobby's observation of "lack of enthusiasm" by PM and would not be drawn on whether the content of proposals would be released before any military action was taken.

BA VISIT

No comment on likelihood of another BA visit by Mr Haig. Noted that it was in the Government's interest to limit the Argentine's ability to play for time. Delaying tactics would diminish the Task Force's effectiveness.

PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Have received no representations about the visit. Hope that development of the Falklands Crisis would be satisfactorily resolved and would not prevent the visit.

JL