

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 17.5.82

Morning lobby was repeated. In addition we gave them a broad outline of the issues covered between President Mitterrand and the PM at their talks and working lunch in No 10 today. (Details as in Press Office Bulletin). We also drew the lobby's attention to the interview with IRN which the PM was giving and said we would endeavour to get transcripts across to the lobby as quickly as possible. We explained that this interview was fitted in by the PM because previously arranged interviews with IRN had had to be postponed. We also advised them of the PM's interview with Jimmy Young on Wednesday. We were uncertain when this had first been arranged but it was not fixed up in the last few days.

PRESS NOTICES

We issued FCO press notice about accreditation arrangements for President Reagan's visit.

MITTERRAND VISIT

We gave the full list of guests at today's lunch. On the question of EC sanctions against Argentine we said France was solid with Britain on this matter. We understand that three countries - Ireland, Italy and Denmark - have political difficulties over the matter for the reasons given in the 11.00am lobby, but we were fairly sure we had support of the majority of our Euro partners and expected and hoped for a renewal. We would expect renewal for a month rather than shorter term. We confirmed that Mr Pym was returning from Luxembourg tonight, that he would be reporting to Cabinet and agreed that a statement was a possibility.

There was no talk of the Channel Link. We were not aware of any particular economic plan being formulated ahead of the Versailles Summit. The meetings and lunch covered a lot of ground in about 2½ hours. It was fruitful and most cordial. Interpreters were present throughout.

UN NEGOTIATIONS.

Sir Anthony Parsons due to meet UN Sec. Gen. at 5.00pm our time. He will undoubtedly report back to the Cabinet who will hear the outcome of his meeting tomorrow morning.

We reaffirmed that Britain was not issuing deadlines over the UN talks. We acknowledged that we had come to a critical stage, this week would be very important and we were not prepared to wait much longer for results. Sec.Gen. will have to decide whether he can bring the two sides together. The common theme of a 48-hour deadline in the Sunday papers did not come from us.

REAGAN VISIT

There is no reason for saying that Mr Reagan will not be welcome if there is a war. We are not postponing the Pope's visit nor would we do so with the President's visit. That would be up to them, of course, but we had no reason to think they would do so.

AUDIENCE

We said we were not sure whether the PM would be having an audience with the Queen tomorrow, but would check on it. (Later established that she was intending to go).

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

We said it was not likely to appear within the next two weeks.

LONDON TRANSPORT

We said we were not aware of any Ministerial discussion of a proposal for Governmental take-over from GLC of the running of LT.

WORLD CUP

No decisions on changing advice to FAs.