

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister was visiting the Police Academy at Epperstone, Nottinghamshire this morning and would speak to the Birmingham Press Club at lunchtime, returning to London at 1730.

This evening she would host a dinner for the meeting of the European Democratic Union. Conservative Central Office was organising the occasion and we understood that the Prime Minister would be making a speech.

The White Paper List was distributed.

---

STATEMENTS

We could not offer any more guidance than was given yesterday about the order and timing of statements before the House rises. The Statement on Shipbuilding would be "early next week". We expected a Statement on Civil Service dispersal but discussion was still continuing and final details still needed to be tied up on this subject.

There were complaints from some members of the Lobby that we had not been able to give them more advance notice about the Statement on British Airways (Financing) made by the Secretary of State for Trade this morning. The fact that the Lobby had not been told that this Statement would be made until 1045 today had given them very little time to ensure that aviation correspondents covered the Statement and subsequent Press Conference. We emphasised that had we been in a position at an earlier stage to confirm that a statement would be made today, we certainly would have done so to assist the Lobby's planning of coverage.

CABINET

We confirmed that there would be meetings of Cabinet next Monday and next Thursday but could not offer any guidance on agendas.

When pressed about stories on the front pages of several newspapers today about the public expenditure programme, we said that "we would not quarrel" with the suggestion that this subject was currently being considered by the Government.

CVA