

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 1600 date: 10/1/80

This morning's Lobby was repeated.

on Afghanistan

Commenting on the PA Report, we said it was a good report of the morning Lobby briefing but not of the ^{discussion} Cabinet - to which it appeared to be attributed. [The Cabinet was in session when the Lobby was being briefed.]

Steel

A statement could be expected on Monday (and a revised business statement) with a debate on steel on Thursday (on the Motion on the Adjournment) opened by Sir Keith Joseph, closed by Mr. Adam Butler.

The Lobby could assume that Ministers were keeping in touch on all aspects of the dispute.

Afghanistan

We emphasised again the need for co-ordinated action with our European partners and NATO. We expected a co-ordinated view to emerge some time next week.

Employment Bill

We could not encourage speculation on the passage of the Employment Bill being accelerated. Secondary picketing was covered in the present Bill. It was premature to discuss how all aspects of the law relating to secondary picketing would finally be resolved.

Local Government and Planning Bill

We would not dissent from the substance of the Guardian report this morning.