

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Mrs Thatcher will be working at No 10 for most of the day (Division at 2200 on the Education Bill).

A meeting of Ministers began at 1000 - present: Prime Minister, Chancellor, Secretaries of State for Defence, Energy, Employment, Industry and Trade. Meeting ended at 1045. There will be further meetings of Ministers this afternoon.

IN THE HOUSE

Education (No 2) Bill - 2nd reading.

BBC EXTERNAL SERVICES

It was not true, as had been reported in the weekend press, that the Government was considering reviewing the cuts intended for the external services. The disposition of the Government was not to revise its decisions. Lobby were reminded that capital spending had been preserved and that, in addition to improving reception quality, the BBC would still be transmitting to developing countries and those where there was restricted access to news. We knew of no plans for opponents of the cuts to meet with Ministers.

IMMIGRATION RULES

No change would be announced this week.

NORTHERN IRELAND

The next step would be to issue the consultative document.

GAS PRICES

Not this week: we expected it would come in the context of financial targets for the Nationalised Industries.

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Meeting of Ministers this morning from 1000 to 1045.
Present: Prime Minister, Chancellor, Secretaries of State for Defence, Energy, Employment, Industry and Trade.

A meeting of Defence and Overseas Policy Committee began at 1430. Present: Prime Minister, Lord Carrington, Chancellor, Home Secretary, Sir Ian Gilmour, SS Defence, Lord Privy Seal, SSs Trade, Industry, Northern Ireland, Chancellor of the Duchy and Chief Whip.

A second meeting of Ministers began at 1600. Present: Prime Minister, Home Secretary, Chancellor, Foreign Secretary SS Defence.

PRESS NOTICE

Lobby were reminded of the ACARD report on "Joining and Assembly - the impact of robots and automation". Press Conference Tuesday 6 November - Treasury, Room 36 Sub Ground - given by Sir James Menter a deputy chairman of ACARD and Sir Henry Chilver, chairman of the Working Group which produced this report.