

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Cabinet met from 0900 - 1100. All present except for Lord Soames - Paul Channon and Earl Ferrers were representing Lord Soames on Civil Service and House of Lords respectively. At 1130 the Prime Minister was attending the Memorial Service for Lord Mountbatten at St. Paul's.

Mrs. Thatcher will be in the House for Questions this afternoon. Afterwards she will receive a short farewell call from the Ambassador of the Federal German Republic, Herr Hans Hellmut Ruete. There is a likelihood of a meeting of Ministers this afternoon.

Tonight the Prime Minister will attend the annual Downing Street Staff Christmas Party.

At 2200 the Prime Minister will vote on the Second Reading of the Social Security Bill.

IN THE HOUSEStatement:

Sir Keith Joseph on the Future of British Leyland Limited.

2 Answers of Substance:-

- 1) At 1600: Q. 209 from Michael Latham asking the Prime Minister if she can announce a successor to Sir Ernest Woodroffe as Chairman of the DDRB.
- 2) No. 120 (yesterday's numbering): from Robert Banks (Harrogate) to ask Norman Fowler what plans he has for reducing the waiting time for 'L' driving tests: and whether he intends to maintain the present fee - to be answered at 1530.

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 20/12/79

The morning Lobby was repeated.

The Prime Minister would receive courtesy calls tomorrow from Bishop Muzorewa at 10.30 am and from Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo at 11.15 am. The signing is taking place at Lancaster House at noon. The Prime Minister would attend the signing ceremony. Lord Carrington would sign.

JL