

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Cabinet met at 0930 until 1150 - all present except Norman Fowler who is in Bristol today.

The Prime Minister will be in the House for Questions this afternoon and will stay on for the Statement by Paul Channon on Civil Service Manpower. Likelihood of a meeting of Ministers later this afternoon.

Early this evening - 1830 - Mrs Thatcher will have talks at Downing Street with the Dutch Prime Minister, Mr Andreas van Agt - the first bilateral since Dublin and the first with the Dutch. This visit was originally organised to discuss NATO matters but EEC Budget contribution will also be covered. The talks will be followed by a dinner for Mr van Agt (he arrives late this afternoon and departs later tonight).

PRESS NOTICES

- i Mr Neil MacFarlane to assist Norman St John Stevas in the field of arts and libraries.
- ii Marquess of Anglesey to be a trustee of the National Portrait Gallery.

IN THE HOUSE

Business Statement followed by Statement on Civil Service Manpower (Paul Channon in Commons, Lord Soames in Upper House).

Zimbabwe Independence Bill to be published this afternoon at about 1600 hours.

RHODESIA

Lord Carrington hoped to conclude the details of the ceasefire arrangements as soon as possible. The appointment of a Governor would be made within the next few days - not today - and was not contingent on the conclusion of any last detail of the Lancaster House negotiations.

NUCLEAR POWER

The Government was likely to make an announcement on the future nuclear power programme fairly soon. We would not quarrel with the account of Cabinet Committee discussion in today's 'Guardian'. An inquiry would, of course, be made into how the leak had occurred: such action was automatic when Cabinet Committee papers leaked. It would be a thorough inquiry.

EMPLOYMENT BILL

It would be laid in the House today and published tomorrow. The SS/Employment would make a Statement at 11.00 and give a press conference at 1130 at Caxton House.

This morning's briefing was repeated.

BILLS

We expect two Bills to be published tomorrow - The Employment Bill on which the Secretary of State for Employment would be issuing a statement on 10.00 am and chairing a press conference at 11.30 am; The National Health Service Bill (on pay beds) would also be published tomorrow morning and DHSS would be sending over a note about the Bill to the Lobby at time of publication.

GREEN POUND

Asked whether the Cabinet had decided to revalue the Green Pound today, we said that we could not reveal what was discussed at Cabinet.