

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister saw Mr. Vance at 10.00. Others attending the meeting were the Foreign Secretary, the Lord Privy Seal and the United States Ambassador. The meeting concluded at 11.15 when Mr. Vance was due to continue his talks with Lord Carrington at the FCO. They will give a brief joint press conference at 12.45 today on the FCO steps. Rhodesia will obviously have been a major item during Mr. Vance's discussions with the Prime Minister but other topics of mutual interest will also have been covered at the meeting.

Mr. Begin will be having a small working lunch with the Prime Minister (details in Press Office Bulletin already circulated).

At 3.30 this afternoon the Prime Minister will receive the Archbishop of Canterbury which will be their first meeting since Mrs. Thatcher became Prime Minister.

At 5.15, the Prime Minister will receive a brief courtesy call from Mr. Patolichev, Soviet Minister for Foreign Trade, who is on a visit to Britain as the guest of the Secretary of State for Trade. The Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Lunkov, will also be present.

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RUNNING PNQs

David Steel - cuts in oil supply to the south of Scotland.

Gordon Wilson - request for statement on the IEA meeting in Paris.

RHODESIA

We emphasised the Government's objective, as stated by the Prime Minister, Lord Carrington and the Lord Privy Seal on several occasions in the House recently - to bring Rhodesia back to legality in a way which commanded wide international acceptance. Initiatives had been announced yesterday to launch the process of consultation with an emissary to visit front line states and other African Commonwealth countries and the despatch of a representative to Salisbury to establish more continuous links. However, we were not expecting any very dramatic movements in the immediate future. We could not really guide correspondents on the timing of the steps which would be required to bring Rhodesia back to legality in a way that was internationally acceptable. Much would depend on the results of the consultations and assessments of the emissaries being sent to Africa shortly. It was obvious that the Commonwealth Heads of Government meeting in Lusaka in early August would also be a significant point in the process of trying to achieve a solution. A principal task of the emissary visiting the front line states and Commonwealth countries would certainly be to explain the Government's attitude to Rhodesia and the Government's judgment that the recent elections there had brought about a new reality in the situation. We stressed that steps towards a solution of the Rhodesia problem could not be sudden or arbitrary. The Government would move as quickly as it could but action must be considered and must win international support.

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister saw Mr. Vance for 1½ hours this morning. Others attending the meeting were the Foreign Secretary and the United States Ambassador. She later had lunch with Mr. Begin lasting about 1½ hours. Also in attendance were Lord Carrington, Douglas Hurd (Minister of State, FCO), Sir Anthony Parsons (FCO), the Israeli Ambassador and the British Ambassador to Israel.

The Archbishop of Canterbury is making his first visit to No. 10 since Mrs. Thatcher became Prime Minister. Later this afternoon the Prime Minister will receive a courtesy call from Mr. Patolichev, Soviet Minister for Trade and the Soviet Ambassador, Mr. Lunkov.

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MR. BEGIN

At the working lunch the talks covered a wide range of subjects of mutual interest and were conducted in a friendly atmosphere. This was not a definitive meeting. Mr. Begin, who was in this country for a 48 hour private visit, would see Mr. Vance tomorrow.

TALKS WITH MR. VANCE

Mr. Vance said after his visit that the US Government certainly had not expressed a view that it was against the sending of emissaries to Salisbury or elsewhere, and he and the US Government supported such moves. He did not commit his Government but emphasised that there was now a new factor in the situation and one had to recognise this. The emissary to Salisbury was Mr. Derek Day, an Assistant Under-Secretary in the Foreign Office and he would leave in a few days time. When questioned about timing, we said that the Government was not expected to do anything unilaterally before or after Lusaka. A solution would be sought which was acceptable to other countries. When asked about Ian Smith's position, correspondents were told that this was not known and that this was one of the reasons why a "stethoscope" was being introduced to Salisbury. We were unable to say at this stage whether publication of the Boyd Report would be accompanied by a formal statement concerning acceptance of the fifth principle but we did say that, after acceptance, then it would be the Government's duty to bring Rhodesia back to legality as a desirable objective. Asked if the emissary to the front line states would meet Mr. Mugabe and Mr. Nkomo, we did not rule this out, but said that such a meeting was not on the agenda. So far as the gap between legality and recognition was concerned, we agreed that this could be small but said that, while that was the objective, the gap could stretch. Correspondents were told that we thought that the USA would instinctively share our objectives and that Mr. Vance had said that one had to recognise reality. We said that the Boyd Report would probably be available tomorrow but could not be precise about its length.

It was agreed by all that the normal Ministerial meeting with the Lobby would not take place at 4 p.m. tomorrow.

HGR