

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 27/11/79

## PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

At 10~~00~~ the Prime Minister met the Delegation of the Board of Deputies of British Jews - the first meeting since Mrs Thatcher took office. The meeting lasted about 45 minutes. Among the subjects discussed were immigration, the Arab boycott, the PLO and the Egypt/Israel peace negotiations. The Delegation was led by the President of the Board Mr Grevill Janner QC MP and also comprised Dr Lionel Kopelowitz and Mr Martin Savitt, Vice Presidents; Mr Victor Lucas, Treasurer; Mr Stewart Young, Appeals Treasurer; and Mr Hayam Pinner, Secretary General.

The PM takes Questions in the House this afternoon; at 3.30 pm she will receive a courtesy call from the Rt Rev Professor Robin Barbour, Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland and Mrs Barbour and the Rev John Miller Scott, Chaplain.

Later this evening the PM will be in the House for a three-line whip on the Transport Bill.

## IN THE HOUSE

Two PNQs are running:

Michael Shersby to ask the SS, D/Em what action he is taking to protect the lives of patients at Charing Cross Hospital who are being denied treatment as a result of picketing by members of the AUEW.

James Kilfedder to ask the SS, N/I if he will make a statement about the Provisional IRA's bombing blitz in Ulster yesterday.

\* We knew of no statements in the House.

## CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL

DHSS were probably issuing a press notice at 1030 this morning recording comments made by Mr Patrick Jenkins at a TUC Conference on Social Affairs (?) this morning on the Charing Cross Hospital dispute.

## DoE: PQs CONFUSION

We expected a statement to be made shortly in the House by a DoE Minister on the confusion arising yesterday over Answers to Questions on the cost of the sale of council houses.

\* *Quotes: S/S Environment statement "Parliamentary Questions" ] lobby informed at 3.30*

## DUBLIN SUMMIT

4.30 We reminded the Lobby that the briefing would be held at the FCO at ~~4.30~~ today. We emphasised that Lord Carrington in Brussels was saying that the UK wanted to be a constructive member of the Community but, to do that, we had to get the budgetary contributions sorted out.

We were not disposed in any way to say that the Government was weakening. The Lord Privy Seal on "Panorama" yesterday evening had been very firm on what we should do if we did not get what we considered justice.

## MoD: NEW MOBILISATION PLAN

We said that the PQ being answered today by MoD on the regular Army reservists was simply a part of a NATO directive and nothing sinister should be read into it.

JL

## PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The morning Lobby was repeated.

In addition we told the Lobby that the PM had seen Mr Butler, President of the NFU and the SS for Agriculture for about 45 minutes today.

## NORTHERN IRELAND

The SS for N Ireland was still talking about the Conference and no decision had been made as yet to postpone it. Since only two replies out of the four had been received it could be postponed; but we underlined that this was a postponement not an abandonment.

## BILLS

The Trade Unions Bill would not be introduced this week.

## CHARING CROSS HOSPITAL

To questions following the PM's statement in the House, we said that clearly the Government was seriously concerned about the scenes outside the hospital yesterday. It was obvious there was moral support for the hospital and the Government was considering courses of action to ensure deliveries of supplies. But we could not speculate on what action might be required.

## BL

We had no comment to make. BL runs BL and must get on with it.