

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS:

Mrs Thatcher is working at Downing Street this morning: at noon she will be at Victoria Station for the arrival of President Soeharto who is on a four-day State Visit to Britain, until Friday.

The Prime Minister will take Questions this afternoon. At 1800 she will receive a call from the Foreign Minister of Zaire, Karl N'Guza I'Bond - he is calling on the Prime Minister at his request.

This evening the Prime Minister and Mr Thatcher will attend the State Banquet at Buckingham Palace for President and Madame Soeharto.

IN THE HOUSE:

Statement on Shotton steelworks by Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales.

PRESS NOTICES:

Details of the Giscard visit next Monday/Tuesday and invitation to the press conference next Tuesday at 1100.

Reappointment of two trustees of the Natural History Museum: Professors Dodd and Valentine.

A FINANCIAL PACKAGE ON THURSDAY?

We had seen the speculative discussion: we could not offer well-informed discouragement, although we were not aware of discussion of measures other than MLR.

EEC BUDGET:

Lobby members were given a background brief on the UK contribution. We said, in amplification of our wish for "broad balance" in the 1980, that we would expect 'substantial decisions' to be taken by the November Dublin Council: these would then go to the Commission for translation to a legal basis. Corrective mechanism - we would want this to last as long as the imbalance lasted.