

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 23.1.80

## PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

A meeting of Ministers was beginning at 1100.

Expected to be present were:

	Prime Minister	
Foreign Secretary		S/S for Energy
Chancellor of the Exchequer		Min. of Agriculture
S/S for Employment		Chief Secretary, Treasury
S/S for the Environment		

Also expected for part of the meeting were:

S/S for Social Services  
Min. of State, CSD (Paul Channon)  
Min. of State, Industry (Viscount Trenchard)  
Min. of State, Northern Ireland (Hugh Rossi).

This afternoon the Prime Minister will have talks at 1630 with King Hussein of Jordan who is in London on a private visit. King Hussein last met the Prime Minister on September 20 and before that in June 1979. Lord Carrington is also expected to be at this afternoon's meeting.

Tonight the Prime Minister will attend the Winter Ball organised by the Conservative Party at the Grosvenor House Hotel.

## IN THE HOUSE

Statement by Peter Walker: "Council of Ministers" (Agriculture).

PNQ allowed:

MR. PETER SHORE: To ask the Lord Privy Seal whether, following the assassination last night in Salisbury of a candidate of one of the main political parties, he will make a statement on the progress of the ceasefire and the preparation for the elections.

(Mr. Luce to answer).

## MEETING OF MINISTERS

Not about cuts as such.

## AFGHANISTAN: SAKHAROV: THE OLYMPICS

We made the following points:

/Afghanistan:

Afghanistan:

The statements tomorrow by Lord Carrington and the Lord Privy Seal would reveal the Government's attitude. We hoped that any measures we might announce (specifically in the field of Anglo-USSR trade) would not be undermined (by our allies). Obviously, we had considered the possibility of, for instance, France and Germany making good any shortfall in our exports to the USSR.

Sakharov:

Lobby were reminded that Mr. Luce, on behalf of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, had told Mr. Lunkov of HMG's anxiety and distress over Dr. Sakharov's arrest.

Olympics:

The text of the Prime Minister's letter to Sir Denis Follows was released. An illustrative list of which events could be staged where in Britain had been drawn up by DoE. Until we know which events might be held here, it was futile to speculate on what the cost might be. The next step was for the British Olympic Association to consider their reaction to the Prime Minister's letter.

AW



# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 23.1.80

## PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

This morning's briefing was repeated.

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## OLYMPICS

We were now waiting for the BOA to reply to the Prime Minister's letter. We knew of no plan for the Prime Minister to see Mr. Callaghan about this matter. Mrs. Thatcher had not spoken to President Carter about the Games, nor was it her present intention to write to Mr. Brezhnev <sup>about Mr. Sakharov.</sup> We understood that, while there had not been a final reply from the Canadian Government about possible alternative sites for the Games, the position in Canada was not very hopeful.

## GRAIN TO POLAND

We did not see that this would be stopped - it was, after all, the Russians who had invaded Afghanistan. But obviously any grain shipments to Poland would be closely monitored, especially because of that country's common border with the Soviet Union.

## LORD PRIVY SEAL

We drew the Lobby's attention to advance copies of tonight's speech in Paris by the Lord Privy Seal on the politics of Europe. This was Sir Ian Gilmour's last 'port of call' in his European tour. We thought it would be rather too early for him to give a full report to Cabinet tomorrow but he might be able to give an impressionistic view of his European visits.

AW