

## PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Meeting of Ministers began at 9.15 and lasted for about an hour. Those present were:

S/S for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs  
Chancellor of the Exchequer  
S/S for Industry  
S/S for Defence  
S/S for Trade.

Cabinet met at 10.30. All were present with the exception of the Paymaster General who is ill.

PM will leave for Luxembourg at 4.00 p.m. and will deliver the Winston Churchill Memorial Lecture this evening. Copies of the speech, embargoed until 9.00 p.m., will be available to the Lobby later this afternoon.

PM will have bilateral talks with M. Werner tomorrow.

Before the November Dublin Summit, PM will have seen five heads of the nine member countries: Chancellor Schmidt, Senor Cossiga, M. Werner, Mr. Lynch and President Giscard.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

Nothing further to add to what was said yesterday. Mr. Botha brought a message from his PM to Mrs. Thatcher. Conversation related to Southern Africa rather than to Rhodesia exclusively. The story in this morning's press about a letter to PM from President Kaunda referred to the one received last week.

## LETTER FROM BREZHNEV

No reply yet had gone from the PM.

## BRITISH LEYLAND

Neither the PM nor the Government are involved in the bid for MG - nor are they likely to be. It is a normal commercial venture.

## PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

No further news on Bills for next week; may be further information tomorrow.

This morning's briefing was repeated.

ADDITIONAL POINTS

The Cabinet broke at 1.00 p.m. Neither gas tariffs nor nuclear power were discussed. It was fair to assume Cabinet had received a progress report on the Rhodesia situation.

PM'S VISIT TO USA

Dates given operationally for PM's visit to Washington and New York on 17-18 December; a formal announcement will be made tomorrow.

PM'S SPEECH IN LUXEMBOURG

The main points of news interest are EEC and defence policy references. Nothing particularly new on either will be said. The PM's views on the UK's budgetary contribution and her feelings on defence are well-known - that something has to be done as soon as possible to reduce our contribution to the former.