

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Mrs. Thatcher was spending the day in Northern Ireland, a visit which had been decided upon after last night's meeting with Humphrey Atkins. Although we were unable, for security reasons, to give precise details of her programme, we understood she would be visiting troops, hospitals and possibly civic representatives. It was not a "political" visit in any sense and there would be no speech. Mrs. Thatcher would return to London this evening.

AW

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 date: 29.8.79

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

Morning lobby was repeated.

The PM will return this evening at approximately 6.30. No Ministerial meetings are planned, although there exists the possibility of seeing the Home Secretary and the Defence Secretary.

The PM had visited ~~at~~ Musgrove Park Hospital, met the Lord Mayor of Belfast, had a walkabout in the city centre and was at Portadown to visit Brigade 3.

On the question of whether there will be renewed diplomatic pressure to bring about a change in the Irish Government's political attitudes, there are no signs that this will happen, although public opinion will no doubt make this the case. We are more likely to approach the Irish Government with a "shopping list" to achieve greater co-operation on security. The main problem is security around the Border area.

The Cabinet meeting tomorrow will be a normal meeting covering various subjects, although the Northern Ireland situation will obviously be discussed. No statements, however, are expected.

LORD MOUNTBATTEN'S FUNERAL

The Lord Chamberlain's Office will issue invitations; some people will indicate their wish to attend. No details yet on who will be coming.

WHITE PAPERS

White Paper on Controls over Local Government Spending is due next week.

JL