

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 16.1.80

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

At 1230 Mrs. Thatcher will accept the Honorary Freedom of the Worshipful Company of Grocers at Grocers Hall in the City. She will make a short courtesy speech of acceptance and thanks (no text).

~~There may be a meeting of Ministers later today.~~

PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

The Energy Secretary would make a statement on financial targets for the gas and electricity industries in which we thought he would put the announcement of price increases for gas and electricity in the context of the industries' financial targets.

NON-DEPARTMENTAL PUBLIC BODIES

Sir Leo Pliatzky's report would be published at 1430 today and Sir Leo would meet the Lobby at 1445.

OLYMPICS

Sir Ian Gilmour and Mr. Hurd would now report back to Ministers on the EEC and NATO meetings in Brussels where the question of Governmental advice on participation in the Olympics had been discussed (in the NATO meeting only). Ministers would now want to take stock of the situation and to hear the views of Sir Ian Gilmour and Douglas Hurd before there was any further comment from the Government on the Olympics.

We stressed that on the question of participation in the Olympics as on other aspects of a Western response to the Soviet Union, it was important for the allies to act together to be effective. We repeated that the Government had no powers to stop participation and could only advise the sporting bodies concerned.

/As regards

As regards possible attendance by members of the Royal Family at the Olympics, we said that on this, as on other matters, Ministers could offer advice to the Royal Family before decisions were taken. We did not know whether Ministers would consider this specific point in the next few days.

YUGOSLAVIA

We could not elaborate on the Prime Minister's statement in the Commons at Question Time yesterday that Britain would do everything possible to support Yugoslavia. Obviously, we were concerned about President Tito's health.

CVA

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PM'S ENGAGEMENTS

Morning Lobby repeated. Meeting of Ministers just starting.

PRESS NOTICE

.... on senior Bank of England appointments.

OLYMPICS

Morning Lobby repeated. Subject on the agenda at this afternoon's Ministerial meeting (i.e. "preliminary reporting back"). On the timing of decisions, we said: "Give it a few days yet". No advice had yet been formulated on attendance by members of the Royal Family at the Olympics.

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