

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister is working at Downing Street this morning. At noon she will attend the unveiling of a statue to the late Earl Attlee in the House. This evening she will deliver the traditional foreign affairs speech at the Lord Mayor's Banquet. Advance copies not expected much before 1900 hours.

STATEMENT

The Secretary of State for Wales is expected to make a statement on Shotton steelworks.

PNQs RUNNING

Mr Shore to Lord Privy Seal on Commonwealth military forces.

Mr Winnick to SS/Defence on US nuclear alert.

THE ECONOMY

We offered no guidance on reports about MLR and/or economic changes. We cautioned the Lobby that, on economic indicators, they should not take one month's figures in isolation.

SHOTTON STATEMENT

We offered no guidance about the statement except to remind the Lobby that, when he saw the Wales TUC, the SS/Defence said every effort would be made to help the job situation in Shotton if the steelworks closed.

EEC: BUDGET

We went round the track again in the shadow of speculative stories during the weekend about who would be prepared to offer us what. We refused to be drawn on our negotiating tactics for Dublin or to confirm that we had received any offers. We stressed that other countries were also negotiating.

RSG

We confirmed that HMG had already taken its decisions about the RSG. We refused to be drawn on speculative stories about the amount. We explained that the announcements relating to England/Wales and Scotland would be published on the same day - Friday 16 November.

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS:

The morning briefing was repeated.

STATEMENT:

The Shotton statement is expected tomorrow.

DES: CURRICULUM:

DES will hold a press conference at 11.00 am on Wednesday (14 November), to be taken by Lady Young, about their response to the discussion document on the school curriculum.

RECAPPING:

In answer to a number of questions we either briefly recapped or offered no further guidance. Subjects embraced in this tour d'horizon included: BBC External Services, NEB, nuclear power statement (before the Recess); Rhodesia, economic policy in general, RSJ and cash limits and Trade Union Bill (expected next month).