

PRIME MINISTER'S ENGAGEMENTS

The Prime Minister had a Party engagement at Conservative Central Office this morning after which she would attend a service to commemorate 10 great soldiers of the Second World War at St Paul's. This afternoon she would be working at No.10 and this evening attending a performance of "Norma" at Covent Garden.

The Prime Minister will spend the weekend at Chequers.

ANSWER OF SUBSTANCE

No.

174 Time Sainsbury to the Home Secretary announcing increases in the television licence fees.

Some members of the Lobby expressed surprise at the size of the increase in the television licence fee. We pointed them to the Home Secretary's reply which provided a good deal of background on the decision and emphasised that the new level of licence fee would hold for a period of two years so this would give stability both to television companies and to the public.

PRE-DUBLIN BRIEFING

We told the Lobby that there would be an unattributable background briefing for British correspondents prior to the European Council in Room 25 FCO on Tuesday 27 November at 16.30 hours.