

(19)

LOBBY BRIEFING 4.00PM MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 1993

we repeated this morning's lobby.

Lord Kingsdown Dinner

We said that the dinner had originally been planned for July. The former Chancellors Norman Lamont and Nigel Lawson had been invited. Mr Lamont had declined and had indicated that he did not wish to be considered when a new date was fixed. Mr Lawson was in South Africa and unable to attend this evening.

Hume/Adams

In response to questions we said that the Prime Minister had not seen the Hume/Adams proposals and was not aware of them in detail. He had seen press reports of the proposals. We said that the proposals had been given to the Irish Government and that the Prime Minister would see Albert Reynolds at the Special European Council meeting in Brussels on Friday. There had been no request for a meeting and there was no formal agenda. We said that we could not comment on a set of proposals we had not seen. Asked if the Prime Minister agreed with Sir Patrick Mayhew's comments on the courage of John Hume, we said that the Prime Minister agreed with the Northern Ireland Secretary on all issues. We said that if the Anglo-Irish conference had gone ahead tomorrow there might have been a run down of the proposals. Our aim was to restart the talks as we saw them as the best route to peace. There would be continuing discussions between the two Governments on the Strand Three approach. Asked if the Prime Minister was considering re-introducing internment, we said we were not aware of discussions on internment.

Northern Ireland Select Committee

In response to questions we said that no agreement had been made with the Ulster Unionists on a Select Committee. The establishment of a Select Committee was a matter for the House of Commons Procedures Committee.

AS