PRIME MINISTER

HEALTH - PRESENTATION

The media have known for a few days that you are seeing John Moore this week - and one newspaper has said Wednesday. Neither DHSS nor I have denied it, but I have said that any meeting at this stage is inevitably a preliminary to the exercise you announced last night.

Both DHSS and I will come under pressure tomorrow and television will almost certainly want to come into the street to record comings and goings.

I see no virtue in being coy about the meeting. Indeed, I see every advantage in making a virtue out of it by presenting it as you and Mr Moore immediately getting down to planning the tasks to be done within Government. This demonstrates the urgency and determination you are bringing to the exercise.

I also see great merit in operating exactly as we did - and successfully - over the AIDS Committee. We then were quite open about the initial meeting but we said this would be the first and last time we proposed to discuss its meetings or their outcome. As and when the Government had anything to announce it would do so in the normal course of business.

You have seized the initiative for the Government with the Panorama broadcast and we need to keep it.

I understand Mr Moore has it in mind to give some interviews tomorrow evening and you might usefully encourage him to do so, partly to help get the whole exercise in perspective.

Content?

BERNARD INGHAM

26 January 1988