

MR ALISON  
MR FLESHER

ROBERT RHODES JAMES

I have been making two points on cuts in the aid programme:

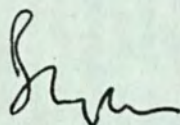
i. Everyone knows - or should know - that whether the aid budget goes up or down, the UK will always do its duty where there are crises such as in Ethiopia or Chad; we have nothing to apologise for in Ethiopia and indeed gave a lead to the EC.

ii. I am sick and tired of crocodile tears. The bleeding hearts who are supporting the miners' strike and demanding more aid for Ethiopia, or wherever, need reminding that the miners' strike has probably already cost more than our total aid programme. Some of that wasted money could - though I do not say would - have gone to help the aid programme.

It is far from clear to me how this can be impugning the motives of Mr Robert Rhodes James, or indeed anyone on the Government side.

I attach the written records of relevant Lobby meetings.

NB: We never disclose we make a written record of Lobbies; and the Lobby should not disclose what I say to politicians.



BERNARD INGHAM  
15 November 1984

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4 pm date: 14/11/84

We repeated the morning Lobby.

## ANGLO/IRISH SUMMIT

We said that we were not prepared to discuss any arrangements for the Anglo/Irish Summit. We stressed that we would do what we could to help the Lobby at the appropriate time but it was likely to be after the event.

We said that there had been no special preparation or Cabinet meeting about for this bilateral. We were not prepared to discuss what subjects might be discussed or to speculate on the source of the Sunday Times story concerning Evelyn Glenholme. We said that it was regrettable that the paper should have decided to publish this story but we were not in the business of attacking newspaper!

## OVERSEAS AID

X | We indicated that we did not know when the Foreign Secretary would decide on the allocation of his department's budget but expected it to be fairly soon. We reminded those present of our comment yesterday that the miners' strike had so far cost £1.3bn - money which could have been allocated to overseas aid. We stressed that Britain would always respond to international disasters in the most appropriate way possible.

## UNESCO

We confirmed that we did not approve of the way UNESCO was operating but that we did not know when a decision of future participation would be taken.

## MINERS

We said that we believed that 940 miners had returned to work today. This meant that 6,000 miners had returned to work during the first 8 months of the strike and that the same number of miners had returned during the last 10 days. Answering a question about Mr Willis's comments at Aberavon last night, we said that the Government fully supported all condemnation of violence and intimidation on picket lines. We did not know whether the PM had heard reports of his speech.

We were not aware of any message being sent from the PM to the Earl of Stockton.

## CS

● repeated the morning lobby.

#### AID BUDGET

X We said that Cardinal Hume had reported on his recent visit to Ethiopia, and that the size of this year's aid budget had not been discussed. We expected the Foreign Secretary to announce the allocations of the Foreign Office budget shortly, probably within a week or so. We said that we were tired of the bleeding hearts who, while supporting the coal strike, were also calling for more overseas aid. The Chancellor had said yesterday that assuming the coal strike lasted until the end of the year it would have cost the country £1.5bn, money which could, we agreed, have been spent more beneficially elsewhere, including perhaps on aid. Asked whether the PM had spoken to the Foreign Secretary, we said No - there had been no need. We noted that HMG had taken the lead in providing international aid for the Ethiopian famine, and in pushing the EC into action, but we added that the Ethiopian regime had been very slow in seeking much needed aid.

#### COAL STRIKE

We said that the cost of the coal strike had not been discussed by Ministers this morning. Ministers had greeted with satisfaction news of the increased numbers returning to work in the coalfields. We acknowledged that the PM received many letters on the coal strike which reflected the enormous resentment of the ordinary taxpayer about the extent to which they had to subsidise the coal industry, with or without the coal strike.

#### COIN v NOTE

We recognised that a campaign had started to save the tatty note, which we thought the PM had probably been in favour of originally. Her mind had changed because of the cost of manufacturing the note, its rapid deterioration and the general acceptance of the coin by the public. We confirmed that the Scots (who traditionally expect others to spend Pounds for them) will be retaining their notes. We did not expect to see elastic (or plastic) Pounds.

#### IRM