

FROM: THE RT HON MICHAEL JOPLING MP

JOPLING, M.P.



Government Chief Whip

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PRIME MINISTER

Edward du Cann approached me last night on behalf of the 1922 Executive concerning your meeting with them next Tuesday. As I understand it, the meeting will take place in Edward's room and will last for no more than one hour. They are particularly anxious that the meeting does not turn into a series of belly-aches from the Executive. Therefore, they wondered whether you might make an opening statement covering the following points:-

1. The Party's current situation in the country in the light of our economic difficulties.
2. The position of the Party in the House, with which he especially mentioned Central Office.
3. The overseas situation, with a special reference to Poland and Ireland. He mentioned that they were puzzled over events in Dublin this week.
4. The present defence situation and whether it would be better to indulge in more spending, rather than finance more people on the dole.

In spite of their protestations, there seems to be plenty of scope for their bellyaching here!

12 December 1980