

PRIME MINISTER

LIBYANS

I assume you will wish to ring the Home Secretary over the weekend to congratulate him on his handling of the Libyan seige. If you do I understand that he is likely to be available on Saturday afternoon. One point you might raise with him is Parliamentary presentation next week. I understand that at present the Home Secretary is thinking about delaying any statement until the middle of the week so that he can say as much as possible about the Government's response to the events leading up to the seige. This has the disadvantage that it will allow the Opposition a free rein to make criticisms (as Mr. Healey said tonight that he would be doing) for several days. It would also mean that the first Governmental response following the ending of the seige would be at your Questions on Tuesday. It is at least for consideration whether the Home Secretary should therefore seek to make a statement on Monday or Tuesday.

You might also consider telephoning Richard Luce to congratulate him on his part.

27 April, 1984