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**Se refiere a:**

**20ABR82 1615Z (1715GB) – CC(82). Minutas de la reunión # 18 del Gabinete completo.**

(CAB 128/73) (desclasificado DIC2012)

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BV  
CC(82) 18th  
Conclusions

COPY NO

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CABINETCONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet  
held at 10 Downing Street on

TUESDAY 20 APRIL 1982

at 5.15 pm

## PRESENT

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime MinisterThe Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP  
Secretary of State for the Home DepartmentThe Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Chancellor of the ExchequerThe Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph MP  
Secretary of State for Education and ScienceThe Rt Hon John Nott MP  
Secretary of State for DefenceThe Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
Secretary of State for the EnvironmentThe Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP  
Secretary of State for WalesThe Rt Hon John Biffen MP  
Lord President of the CouncilThe Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP  
Secretary of State for Social ServicesThe Rt Hon Baroness Young  
Lord Privy SealThe Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and  
Paymaster GeneralThe Rt Hon Lord Hailsham  
Lord ChancellorThe Rt Hon Francis Pym MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth AffairsThe Rt Hon James Prior MP  
Secretary of State for Northern IrelandThe Rt Hon Peter Walker MP  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and FoodThe Rt Hon George Younger MP  
Secretary of State for ScotlandThe Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP  
Secretary of State for IndustryThe Rt Hon David Howell MP  
Secretary of State for TransportThe Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP  
Chief Secretary, TreasuryThe Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP  
Secretary of State for EnergyThe Rt Hon Lord Cockfield  
Secretary of State for Trade**SECRET**

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THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP  
Attorney General

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP  
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong  
Mr R L Wade-Gery  
Mr D H Colvin

S U B J E C T

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

Possible Emergency Legislation

1

Current Situation

1

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FALKLAND  
ISLANDS

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Possible  
Emergency  
LegislationPrevious  
Reference:  
C(82) 17th  
Conclusions,  
Minute 1

The Cabinet had before them a Note by the Secretary of the Cabinet (C(82) 13) covering a revised print of a possible Falkland Islands Emergency Bill; and a minute of 16 April to the Prime Minister from the Home Secretary commenting on the case for early legislation.

THE HOME SECRETARY said that in his view no action should be taken in present circumstances to introduce emergency legislation. If the situation changed the existing draft Bill could be brought forward very rapidly. It would then provide a framework under which Defence Regulations could be made as required, subject to affirmative resolution. Such Regulations could if necessary have retrospective force.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE said that in certain circumstances the lack of emergency legislation could limit the scope for action by the Government; but no major difficulty was anticipated.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that there seemed to be no case for legislation in present circumstances. The draft Bill should be held ready for early introduction by the Home Secretary if required at a later stage.

The Cabinet -

1. Took note.

Current  
SituationPrevious  
Reference:  
CC(82) 17th  
Conclusions,  
Minute 2

The Cabinet had before them a Note by the Secretary of the Cabinet (C(82) 15) to which were attached draft proposals for a settlement received on 19 April from the United States Secretary of State, Mr Haig, and for comparison the earlier draft agreed between him and British Ministers the previous week.

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the latest proposals communicated by Mr Haig after his second visit to Buenos Aires were unsatisfactory in a number of important respects. As the Prime Minister had informed Parliament earlier that afternoon, he himself would be visiting Washington on 22 April. He would be putting counter-proposals to Mr Haig, who was himself clearly disappointed by the results of his talks in Buenos Aires and did not appear to rule out continuing his attempts at negotiating a settlement.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that maximum diplomatic, economic and military pressure would need to be exerted if the Argentine Government were to be brought to agree to acceptable provisions in three crucial areas in particular: withdrawal arrangements; the interim administration; and provision for negotiating a definitive solution. Meanwhile it was important to preserve the confidentiality of the draft proposals, and comment should be kept to a

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minimum. She would arrange for the Press to be told that the Cabinet had taken stock of the present position, particularly in the light of the Argentine proposals communicated by Mr Haig and of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's forthcoming visit to Washington.

The Cabinet -

2. Took note.

Cabinet Office

21 April 1982

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