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OD(SA)(82) 20th Meeting

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CABINET

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

MINUTES of a Meeting held at
10 Downing Street on
THURSDAY 29 APRIL 1982 at 9.00 am

PRESENT

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP
Prime Minister

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP
Secretary of State for the
Home Department

The Rt Hon Francis Pym MP
Secretary of State for Foreign
and Commonwealth Affairs

The Rt Hon John Nott MP
Secretary of State for Defence

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Paymaster General

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

Admiral of the Fleet
Sir Terence Lewin
Chief of the Defence Staff

Sir Antony Acland
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir Michael Palliser
Cabinet Office

SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr R L Wade-Gery
Mr R L L Facer
Brigadier J A C G Eyre

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1. DIPLOMATIC ISSUES

Previous Reference OD(SA)(82) 19th Meeting, Item 1

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the Argentine Government had still not replied to the proposals which the United States Secretary of State, Mr Haig, had put to them on 27 April. Mr Haig was now thinking of extending the deadline to midnight Washington time on 29/30 April. The Argentine Government appeared to be playing for time, and might be contemplating some initiative with the United Nations.

The Sub-Committee -

Took note.

2. MILITARY ISSUES

Previous Reference OD(SA)(82) 19th Meeting, Item 2

THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF said that it had been agreed that the slower ships of the Amphibious Group should sail from Ascension Island at noon that day. The larger ships, such as the Canberra and the Norland, were faster and need not sail at the same time.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that no decisions were needed at the present meeting. Further information should be sought on the position of the helicopters in the Falkland Islands which were used by doctors to treat patients in the outlying districts.

The Sub-Committee -

1. Took note that the Defence Secretary had authorised the sailing of the smaller ships of the Amphibious Group from Ascension Island on 29 April.
2. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, in consultation with the Defence Secretary, to consider the position of the helicopters used by the medical service in the Falkland Islands.

Cabinet Office

29 April 1982

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