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JUL09 – SCSA NOTE – FALKLANDS ISLANDS SERVICE (cab 148/212)

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CABINET

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

FALKLAND ISLANDS SERVICE

Note by the Secretaries

The attached note by Ministry of Defence officials is circulated for consideration by the Sub-Committee at their meeting on 12 July.

Signed ROBERT ARMSTRONG
A D S GOODALL
R L L FACER

Cabinet Office

9 July 1982

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THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SERVICE

Note by Ministry of Defence officials

This memorandum invites the attention of Ministers to certain points arising in the implementation of the proposals set out in the Defence Secretary's minute of 5 July to the Prime Minister.

ORDER OF SERVICE

2. Attached is a copy of the order of service which the Dean of St. Paul's has proposed after discussion with other Church authorities and with Ministry of Defence officials. It has become clear that the Archbishop of Canterbury attaches great importance to a broadly based and willing ecumenical participation. It has not been easy to reconcile the approaches of the various ecclesiastical interests to what should be seen as a truly national occasion, but the more objectionable features reported in The Times of 1 July do not appear. The prayers are responsible in tone, though it is understood that the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council (Dr. Kenneth Greet) has been asked to reduce the length of his contribution. The Ministry of Defence has, however, represented to the Dean its concern that there is no lay participation, for example in the reading of a lesson, to establish a linkage with the events which formed the occasion for the service. There are considerable difficulties here, and Ministers may wish to discuss the matter further.

ALLOCATION OF SEATS

3. In the time available the most practical, even if slightly arbitrary, way of implementing the wish of Ministers to be generous in the allocation of seats to next of kin is to send two tickets to each next of kin other than widows and three to each widow, with an indication that children may be included. This has been done, and we propose that the resulting increase over the 500 tickets assigned

to next of kin in the Defence Secretary's minute should, together with the accommodation of appropriate civic interests, be met mainly by reducing the allocation to the general public. It is planned that members of the task force and next of kin should be seated prominently within the Cathedral, receiving priority over VIPs not closely connected with the direction and conduct of operations, foreign and Commonwealth guests, and the general public.

ST PAUL'S CATHEDRALTHE FALKLAND ISLANDS SERVICEJULY 26 1982 AT 11 A.M.THANKSGIVING

HYMN

Praise, my Soul, the King of Heaven

INTRODUCTION
(The Dean of St. Paul's)

We meet to worship God. We thank him for the cessation of hostilities in the South Atlantic and for the courage and determination of all who took part and the safe return of so many.

We remember the fallen and commend them to God's keeping. May he work in them the good purpose of his perfect will. We pray for the wounded and all who care for them. We seek to share the sufferings of those who mourn and pray that God may strengthen them in the years ahead.

We pray for reconstruction in the Falkland Islands and for the reunion of divided families. We pray for peace and reconciliation in the South Atlantic. May this service unite us, strengthen our spirit and sustain our hopes so that we may commit ourselves to be makers of peace in our divided world.

THANKSGIVING

The Chaplain of the Fleet

Let us thank God for his goodness and his mercy and all acts of courage and fortitude. Let us say together the General Thanksgiving. Almighty God, Father of all mercies

HYMN

All my hope on God is founded

FIRST LESSON

Micah 4 1-4, read by the Moderator of the United Reformed Church

REMEMBRANCE

HYMN

Guide me O Thou Great Redeemer

SECOND LESSON

Matthew 5 1-12, read by the Canon in Residence

ANTHEM

And I Saw a New Heaven (Bainton)

SERMON

The Archbishop of Canterbury

PRAYERS

For the Wounded, led by the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland

O Christ, our Master and Redeemer, you were wounded for the salvation of all mankind, your body broken for the peace of the world. Hear us, therefore, as now we commend to your loving care all who have been wounded in body, mind or spirit in recent conflict: the blind, the maimed and disabled, the mentally distraught, all for whom life will never now be the same. Grant them healing of body and mind, strengthening of spirit and confidence, and whatever the future hold for them, the encouragement of good companionship and of understanding love, for your dear sake. Amen

For Remembrance, led by the Cardinal
Archbishop of Westminster

Lord, our God, you guide your creation with fatherly care. Your will is to gather all peoples as one family in yourself. Banish violence from our midst and wipe away our tears, so that we may not only be called your sons and daughters, but live as true brothers and sisters in Christ your Son.

God our Father, in whom the dead find life, listen we beseech you to our prayers. Grant that all who have fallen in battle may find in you the peace that this world cannot give and enjoy eternal life.

God our Father, you know how saddened we are by the death of those for whom our love is great. We ask you to comfort and console those who mourn and grieve.

We make our prayer through Christ our Lord.
Amen

LAST POST - REVEILLE

Silence

PEACE AND RECONCILIATION

HYMN

Psalm No. 23 to the tune Crimond

PRAYERS

A confession and Absolution, led by the
Bishop of London

Prayers for Peace, led by the Moderator
of the Free Church Federal Council,
ending with the Lord's Prayer

God our Father, author of peace and lover of mankind, we praise you for the gospel of reconciliation. We thank you for the work of the Holy Spirit, drawing the scattered flock of Christ into a new and deeper unity. May this be a sign of hope to our dark and divided world. Enable us, who bear your name, to be instruments of your peace, understand the causes of war and seek to remove them, building bridges of trust and friendship across chasms of suspicions and enmity; never ceasing to believe that the peace for which we pray is possible; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God of all nations, we thank you for the concern for peace which grows in the hearts and minds of ordinary people the world over. Use that concern to create the structures of peace and a new atmosphere of co-operation. Help us to identify the common enemies of mankind and to work together for the eradication of poverty, hunger and disease. Give us the will to build defences against these instead of against each other. To this end, bless the work of the United Nations. Save us from the cynicism and weariness which inhibit our resolute pursuit of that for which it stands; a world in which peace is the root of justice, and gentleness is revealed as the truest strength: for the sake of Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen

Eternal God, as the rainbow spans the heavens when the clouds are dark, so our strifes and enmities stand in the justice of your over-arching love and righteousness. We thank you for those who, once our enemies, are now our friends. Grant that the work of reconciliation may now bring lasting peace to the South Atlantic, justice and security for the people who live there, and freedom for all who suffer oppression wherever they may be. In humility, we offer you our prayers, and with them, the service of our lives; in the name of Jesus Christ our Redeemer. Amen

Let us say together the prayer which Christ himself taught us. Our Father

BLESSING

By the Archbishop of Canterbury

NATIONAL ANTHEM

NOTE: Other church leaders, including the Archbishop of York, will be invited to attend