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OD(SA)(82)52nd 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
MONDAY 7 JUNE 1982 at 9.30 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

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP
Attorney General

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 A D S Goodall
Mr R L L Facer
Brigadier J A C G Eyre

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1. MILITARY ISSUES

THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF briefed the Sub-Committee on the latest military situation.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that the modalities of an eventual Argentine surrender should continue to be kept under close review. It would be important to secure the earliest possible comprehensive cessation of hostilities - ie one applying to the Argentine mainland as well as East and West Falklands; and in this connection it would be helpful if further thought could be given to the handling of Argentine prisoners of war: the Americans were ready to provide some logistic support with repatriation. In view of apparent Brazilian reluctance to permit the return of the RAF Vulcan from Rio de Janeiro, it would seem inappropriate for the supply of spare parts for the Brazilian Lynx helicopters to go forward for the time being. The question could be re-examined in about a week's time, when the Brazilian response to our representations for the return of the Vulcan had become clear.

The Sub-Committee -

1. Invited the Defence Secretary to prepare and circulate a further note on the handling and eventual repatriation of Argentine prisoners of war.
2. Invited the Defence Secretary to arrange for the supply of spare parts for the Brazilian Lynx helicopters to be delayed as indicated by the Prime Minister in her summing up.

2. POLITICAL ISSUES

The Sub-Committee had before them telegrams nos. 281 and 282 from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Santiago, Mr Heath, reporting current moves by Chilean military forces.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up a short discussion, said that it would be inappropriate for HM Ambassador at Santiago to make representations to the Chilean Government about current moves by Chilean forces. She noted that the other governments represented at the Versailles Economic Summit

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had expressed readiness to help to put pressure on Argentina, once Port Stanley had been retaken, to accept a comprehensive cessation of hostilities. It would be desirable to take diplomatic action with the Allies and European partners in the meantime to encourage them to implement this offer at the right moment and to prepare them for the need to maintain sanctions against Argentina until a comprehensive cessation of hostilities had been secured. Allied sensitivities would need to be borne in mind in formulating public statements of the United Kingdom's position over the coming weeks: it would be helpful if a form of words could be prepared for public use describing the United Kingdom's position on the future administration and protection of the Falkland Islands once hostilities were over.

The Sub-Committee -

1. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to arrange for diplomatic action to be taken with allied and other friendly governments in accordance with the Prime Minister's summing up.
2. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, in consultation with the Defence Secretary, to consider further the modalities and tactics of achieving a comprehensive cessation of hostilities.
3. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, in consultation with the Defence Secretary and the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, to prepare a form of words on the future of the Falklands on the lines indicated by the Prime Minister in her summing up.

Cabinet Office

7 June 1982