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10 DOWNING STREET

From the Principal Private Secretary

13 July 1982

Dear Jane,

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SERVICE

The Prime Minister has seen your Secretary State's minute of 12 July 1982 about the Falkland Islands Service and, as I told you on the telephone this morning, is content with the position as set out by Mr Nott in paragraph two. She agrees that the Dean should now be asked to put these latest proposals forcefully to the Cardinal and Dr Greet.

I am sending copies of this letter to the Private Secretaries to other members of OD(SA) and to David Wright (Cabinet Office).

Yours sincerely,

Miss Whitman

Miss Jane Ridley,
Ministry of Defence.

AT



MO 5/21

PRIME MINISTERTHE FALKLAND ISLANDS SERVICE

Following our discussion in OD(SA) this morning Sir Arthur Hockaday had a meeting with the Dean and the Precentor of St. Paul's Cathedral at which he left them in no doubt regarding your views.

2. On the specific points at issue the following position was reached:-

- (a) The second sentence of Dr Greet's third prayer will be amended to read "We thank you for those who, in former times our enemies, are now our friends" in order to make clear that it refers to enemies in past wars such as the Germans.
- (b) The suggestion that one lesson should be read by the Chaplain of 2 Para. was warmly received by the Dean and the Precentor, who did not believe that either the Cardinal or Dr Greet would object to it. The St Paul's tradition that one lesson is normally read by the Canon in Residence could be met by having three lessons.
- (c) The Dean regards himself as committed beyond recall by his invitation to the Moderator of the General Assembly of the United Reformed Church to read a lesson. She is, contrary to what we have all hitherto assumed, a lay person Mrs Rosalind Goodfellow JP. She is reported to be a robust person of no pacifist leanings.
- (d) To meet our insistence upon a contribution from a combatant member of the task force, the Dean and the Precentor

Prime Minister

Agree that we should tell
the Dean to go ahead on
his basis with the Cardinal
or Dr Greet?

Yes
MS

12/11



have suggested that one or two junior members of the task force, to be selected by us, should lead the congregation from one section of the service to the next with an appropriate sentence or two of scripture, they would do this immediately after the first lesson and immediately after the Silence following reveille, and their names would appear in the order of service.

3. If this is acceptable to us the St. Paul's authorities will be very ready to put it to the Cardinal and Dr Greet with a strong recommendation that the service would be unbalanced without a contribution from a direct participant in the events which are its occasion. They believe that this would be easier for the Cardinal to accept than the reading of a lesson, and that if the Cardinal accepted Dr Greet would follow suit. I believed that the arrangements outlines above would sufficiently meet, albeit in a different form, our desire for the participation of a combatant member of the task force. If you agree, my officials will ask the Dean to put these proposals forcefully to the Cardinal and Dr Greet.

4. I am copying this minute to our OD(SA) colleagues and Sir Robert Armstrong.

J. Ridley
(draft approved by the
Secretary of State and signed
in his absence)

Ministry of Defence
12th July 1982