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OD(SA)(82) 2nd Meeting

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DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

MINUTES of a Meeting held in
The Prime Minister's Room,
House of Commons, on
WEDNESDAY 7 APRIL 1982 at 7.00 pm

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
Paymaster General

ALSO PRESENT

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

SECRETARIAT

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

SUBJECT

SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

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SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

The Sub-Committee had before them memoranda by the Secretary of State for Defence (OD(SA)(82) 3) and the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (OD(SA)(82) 2), a minute of 6 April to the Prime Minister from the Secretary of the Cabinet (A08060) and a note by the Secretaries (OD(SA)(82) 4).

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that the Sub-Committee were clear that an Exclusion Zone of 200 miles should be established round the Falkland Islands. The question of when this should be announced and take effect was more difficult, and various possibilities had been carefully considered. On balance, it seemed that the wisest course would be to announce before the end of the Parliamentary debate that evening that the Zone would be established from midnight on 11/12 April; and to inform the United States Secretary of State, Mr Haig, before the announcement. The announcement should be in the terms of the draft attached to OD(SA)(82) 4, subject to two minor amendments in the third sentence: "all" should be replaced by "any"; and "entering or" should be deleted.

The Sub-Committee

1. Invited the Defence Secretary to announce, in the course of his winding-up speech in the current Parliamentary debate, the establishment of the proposed Exclusion Zone on the basis indicated by the Prime Minister in her summing up.
2. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, at his discretion, to inform the United States Secretary of State of this announcement before it was made.
3. Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, in consultation with the Defence Secretary, to arrange for the establishment of the Exclusion Zone to be formally notified, after the announcement and in identical terms, to overseas governments and other interested parties.
4. Agreed to resume their discussion at 11 am the following day.

Cabinet Office
8 April 1982

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