

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

CC(82) 17th  
Conclusions

COPY NO 79

CABINET

---

CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet  
held at 10 Downing Street on  
WEDNESDAY 14 APRIL 1982  
at 10.30 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 Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Rt Hon Sir Keith Joseph MP  
Secretary of State for Education and Science

The Rt Hon John Nott MP  
Secretary of State for Defence

The Rt Hon George Younger MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland

The Rt Hon Patrick Jenkin MP  
Secretary of State for Industry

The Rt Hon David Howell MP  
Secretary of State for Transport

The Rt Hon Leon Brittan QC MP  
Chief Secretary, Treasury

The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP  
Secretary of State for Energy

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

The Rt Hon Lord Hailsham  
Lord Chancellor

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

The Rt Hon James Prior MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

The Rt Hon Michael Heseltine MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment

The Rt Hon Nicholas Edwards MP  
Secretary of State for Wales

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP  
Lord President of the Council

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP  
Secretary of State for Social Services

The Rt Hon Baroness Young  
Lord Privy Seal

The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP  
Secretary of State for Employment

The Rt Hon Lord Cockfield  
Secretary of State for Trade

**SECRET**

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP  
Attorney General

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP  
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong  
Mr R L Wade-Gery  
Mr D H J Hilary (Item 1)  
Mr L J Harris (Item 1)  
Mr D H Colvin (Item 2)

CONTENTS

Item	Subject	Page
1.	PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS	1
	Northern Ireland Legislation	1
	Falkland Islands: Emergency Legislation	1
2.	FALKLAND ISLANDS	2

PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS

1. The Cabinet were informed that there had been no change in the provisional arrangements for business to be taken in the House of Commons during the week beginning 19 April 1982; the arrangements remained as notified to the Cabinet at their meeting on 6 April.

Northern  
Ireland  
Legislation

The Cabinet noted that, although the White Paper on constitutional development in Northern Ireland had been better received in the Province than might have been expected, a number of the Government's own supporters appeared to be mounting a campaign against the proposed legislation. The Cabinet further noted that the official Opposition were at present in favour of the debate on the White Paper in the week beginning 26 April taking place on a take note motion. A reasonable time would have to be allowed between the debate and the Second Reading of the Bill, but there was no reason why the Bill should not be published and introduced in the course of the following week.

The Cabinet -

1. Agreed that the proposed legislation on Northern Ireland should be introduced in the House of Commons in the course of the following week.

Falkland  
Islands:  
Emergency  
Legislation

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that in the context of the Falkland Islands situation it might be necessary to introduce emergency legislation to deal with such matters as the requisitioning of ships and aircraft and the expulsion of Argentinian nationals from the United Kingdom. He was in discussion with the Home Secretary and the Secretary of State for Trade about the need for and timing of emergency legislation, and the drafting of a Bill on a contingency basis had almost been completed.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR TRADE said that a particular problem arose in relation to the Trading with the Enemy Act. If Argentina declared war on the United Kingdom, the draconian provisions of the Act would automatically come into effect. It would be preferable for the Act to be brought into force by Order in Council, and any emergency legislation should contain a provision to this effect.

The Cabinet -

2. Took note.

FALKLAND  
ISLANDS

Previous  
Reference:  
CC(82) 15th  
Conclusions

2. The Cabinet reviewed the state of the dispute over the Falkland Islands.

THE PRIME MINISTER reported on the conversations which she and certain colleagues had held with the United States Secretary of State, Mr Haig.

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY reported on the international political and diplomatic reactions to the dispute.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR DEFENCE reported on the state of military preparations against the possibility of a breakdown in attempts to resolve the dispute by peaceful means.

The Cabinet -

Took note.

Cabinet Office

14 April 1982