

MR. WHITMORE

Service of Thanksgiving

Sir Arthur Hockaday rang again this morning.

I told him that the Prime Minister thought it would be much more appropriate for the Chief of Defence Staff or C. in C. Fleet to read a lesson and that she did not wish to herself. He had just been speaking to the Dean of St. Paul's again and had learnt that there was now a prospect of the Duke of Edinburgh reading a lesson, though no firm decision had yet been taken.

It was now less likely that there would be any attempt to include in the Order of Service either the Lord's Prayer in Spanish or an extract from the Pope's sermon in Coventry. Today's Telegraph leader, on the theme that this was an occasion for the "British Family", had been taken to heart by the Dean.

But a fresh difficulty had arisen about the title of the Service. Cardinal Hume had argued very strongly that the reference to "Liberation of the Falkland Islands" should be deleted because "liberation" had special significance in Roman Catholic theology, especially in South America. The Dean attached great importance to the Service not creating difficulties between the Churches and therefore proposed that the title of the Service should be simply "The Falkland Islands Service".

A.S.C.

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