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OD(SA)(82) 15th 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
SATURDAY 24 APRIL 1982 at 6.15 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
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster
and Paymaster General

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers MP
Attorney General

Admiral of the Fleet
Sir Terence Lewin
Chief of the Defence Staff
(Item 2)

Sir Antony Acland
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir Ian Sinclair
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir Michael Palliser
Cabinet Office

SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr R L Wade-Gery
Mr R L L Facer
Brigadier J A C G Eyre (Item 2)

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1. DIPLOMATIC SITUATION

The Sub-Committee had before them a memorandum by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on his discussions with the United States Secretary of State, Mr Haig, in Washington on 22-23 April (OD(SA)(82)25).

The PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that the Sub-Committee had received a full account of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's negotiations in Washington and had carefully considered the proposals which Mr Haig had now put forward. She herself had received a message from Mr Haig, and it was agreed that she should reply to this in the following terms -

"Thank you for your message giving your comments on your long discussions with Francis Pym. My colleagues most closely concerned and I have now had a full report from him. We remain most grateful to you for your continuing efforts.

You asked me to send you a reaction this evening. This whole business started with an Argentine aggression. Since then our purpose together has been to ensure the early withdrawal by the Argentine in accordance with the Security Council Resolution. We think therefore that the next step should be for you to put your latest ideas to them. I hope that you will seek the Argentine Government's view of them tomorrow and establish urgently whether they can accept them. Knowledge of their attitude will be important to the British Cabinet's consideration of your ideas."

The Sub-Committee -

Took note that the Prime Minister would be replying to Mr Haig's message as indicated in her summing up.

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2. MILITARY SITUATION

The Sub-Committee were informed of the latest military situation.

The Sub-Committee -

Agreed to resume their discussion the following day.

Cabinet Office

25 April 1982

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