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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
THURSDAY 15 JULY 1982 at 9.15 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 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 QC MP
Attorney General

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

Sir Antony Acland
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir Arthur Hockaday
Ministry of Defence

SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr A D S Goodall
Mr R L L Facer
Brigadier J A C G Eyre

SUBJECT

FAIKLAND ISLANDS SERVICE

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SITUATION IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC

The Sub-Committee had before them a minute from the Defence Secretary to the Prime Minister dated 12 July on the arrangements for the Falkland Islands Service in St Paul's Cathedral.

SIR ARTHUR HOCKADAY said that the Dean of St Paul's had informed him that the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Hume, and the Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council, Dr Greet, had accepted the proposals set out in the Defence Secretary's minute of 12 July, including the reading of a lesson by the Chaplain to the 2nd Battalion, the Parachute Regiment, and the suggestion that one or two junior members of the Services who had served with the Task Force should contribute to the service by leading the congregation from one section of the service to the next with an appropriate sentence of scripture. The order of service was now being printed for The Queen's approval: it would then be issued to the press. The Dean of St Paul's had personally been helpful: it was clear that the initial difficulties had arisen mainly from the misgivings of Cardinal Hume.

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that he strongly advised that, since it would be regarded as invidious to invite representatives of only a few of the many Governments who had shown their support for the United Kingdom during the crisis, the occasion should be a purely domestic one.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that there would be a number of other occasions on which the Government would be able to show their gratitude and appreciation to the Armed Forces for their efforts in the South Atlantic. But it would be wrong not to support the service in St Paul's. It was important that there should be no departure from the order of service now agreed. The service should be a domestic occasion, though it was a pity that no way had been found of inviting representatives of the United States, New Zealand and Nepal whose Governments had provided material help. Owing to pressure on space, it would not be possible to invite Cabinet Ministers' wives.

The Sub-Committee -

1. Agreed that representatives of foreign and Commonwealth Governments should not be invited to the Service.
2. Invited the Defence Secretary to arrange for the St Paul's authorities to be informed that the order of service now proposed was acceptable to the Government.

Cabinet Office

15 July 1982

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