

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

C(80) 55

COPY NO 81

13 October 1980

CABINET

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION AND
OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Note by the Secretary of State for the Home Department

1. I attach for the Cabinet's consideration drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the prorogation of the current Session of Parliament and the opening of the new Session, which have been prepared by The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee on the basis of suggestions by colleagues.
2. The draft prorogation speech is intended to summarise Government action during the Session. It is long, but the Committee considered that this was a proper reflection of the length of the Session and the developments during it.
3. In preparing the draft opening speech, we have given priority to economic and industrial matters. We have tried to keep it short. We are grateful to those colleagues who agreed to the modification of certain passages to help us to achieve this. We are grateful also to the Paymaster General for his invaluable help in improving the drafting.
4. Some of the references to the Royal Visits in the draft opening speech are in square brackets. This is because they have yet to be confirmed. There may also be other references, such as those to Northern Ireland affairs, which will require revision nearer the time of presentation.
5. Subject to such revision, I invite the Cabinet to approve the attached draft prorogation and opening speeches.

W W

Home Office

13 October 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

NOVEMBER 1980

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

My husband and I were pleased to receive the State Visits of the President of Kenya in June 1979 and of the President of the Republic of Indonesia and Madame Tien Soeharto in November.

We look back with much pleasure on the visits we have made. We visited Denmark in May 1979; and Tanzania, Botswana, Malawi and Zambia in July and August. As Head of the Commonwealth, I was present in Lusaka on the occasion of the meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government. In May this year we visited Switzerland and we have recently returned from visits to Italy, the Holy See, Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. We were greatly saddened by the death in July this year of President Khama of Botswana.

My Government welcomed the independence of Kiribati, St. Vincent, Zimbabwe and Vanuatu, and their decision to join the Commonwealth. Having brought Southern Rhodesia to independence in conditions of the widest international recognition, my Government have committed substantial aid to Zimbabwe's reconstruction and development.

My Government attach the highest importance to ensuring the security of the nation and the maintenance of peace. They have played a leading role within the North Atlantic Alliance to ensure that the defence capability of the West is such as to deter any would-be aggressor. British defences have been strengthened and action has been taken to improve the morale of the armed forces. My Government have taken steps to maintain the effectiveness of Britain's nuclear deterrent into the 1990s and beyond. Realistic, balanced and verifiable arms control measures have been sought in the Committee on Disarmament and in other negotiations.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

In conjunction with the United Kingdom's partners and allies, my Government have sought to bring home to the Soviet Union the damage which its actions have done to East-West relations. My Government have played an active part in the international effort to enable Afghanistan to resume its traditional neutrality and non-alignment.

My Government have sought to play a constructive part in the work of the European Community and in European political co-operation. Arrangements have been agreed to reduce substantially the United Kingdom's net contribution to the community budget and our partners in Europe are committed to a thorough review of the development of community policies and the operation of the budget. My Ministers have secured level terms of competition for the agricultural industry under the common agricultural policy and have been negotiating a revision of the common fisheries policy which takes account of the need to conserve fish stocks and to protect the interests of our fishermen.

My Government have also worked for a negotiated peace in the Arab/Israeli conflict acceptable to all parties. Together with the other members of the European Community, they stated in Venice on 13 June this year the principles on which they believed such a settlement should be based. They are following closely the resulting discussions between the President of the Council of Ministers and the parties concerned.

The United Kingdom also took an active part in the discussion of international economic and political questions at the summit meeting of the leaders of the seven major industrialised countries held in Venice in June this year.

CONFIDENTIAL

My Government have continued to co-operate in international efforts to solve the serious economic difficulties of many developing countries. They have been active also in Commonwealth affairs and in the work of the United Nations and its specialised agencies. Britain's contacts with countries in Latin America and elsewhere have been strengthened.

My Government have supported the efforts of the countries of the Association of South East Asian Nations to meet the threat posed by Vietnam's armed intervention in Cambodia, and have taken a leading part in international moves to relieve famine and to care for refugees in South East Asia.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the public services.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

My Government have given priority to bringing down the rate of inflation through the pursuit of firm monetary and fiscal policies. A medium-term financial strategy has been published, entailing a progressive decline in the growth of the money supply and fiscal policies consistent with this. Progress has been made towards securing a substantial reduction in the burden of official external debt during the lifetime of this Parliament.

Income tax has been cut significantly, with the object of restoring incentives and creating conditions in which commerce and industry can flourish. Plans for public expenditure have been published, showing progressive reductions in total but with increases on defence, law and order and health and social security.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

My Government have introduced measures to free business and commerce from unnecessary controls and to assist exporters. Statutory control of dividends has been abolished. Legislation has been passed to strengthen the control of anti-competitive practices in industry and commerce and to abolish the Price Commission. Steps have been taken to stimulate improvements in the marketing and export of agricultural and food products.

An Act has been passed to improve industrial relations and to bring about a fair balance between the rights of employers, trade unions and individual employees.

Measures have been introduced to stimulate enterprise and competition, to encourage the growth of new businesses and to reduce nationalised and state ownership. Steps have been taken to increase the efficiency and reduce the size of the Civil Service. Substantial private sector support has been obtained for the advanced factory programme in the assisted areas. My Government have announced their intention to set up urban development corporations in the London and Merseyside docklands and enterprise zones in seven locations, and the necessary statutory authority has been secured. Measures to strengthen industry in the regions have been concentrated in the areas of greatest need.

Legislation has been passed to allow private shareholders to take control of the businesses of British Aerospace, British Airways and the National Freight Corporation, and to increase competition in the bus industry. An Act has been passed to modify the functions of the National Enterprise Board and the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies. Legislative provision has been made to amend the financing of the National Coal Board and the payment of certain grants to assist the Board in attaining its financial objectives.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

My Government have implemented in full the recommendations on police pay of the Committee of Inquiry on the Police and have been pleased to see a substantial increase in the strength of the police service. An Act has been passed to establish a Police Negotiating Board for the United Kingdom. The report of the Committee of Inquiry into the United Kingdom prison services was received and my Government have taken action on its main recommendations.

In Northern Ireland, my Government have made continuing efforts to combat terrorism and promote security within the normal framework of the rule of law. A conference of local political leaders has been held and, following the publication of some Proposals for Further Discussion, a programme of extensive consultations has been undertaken, in pursuance of my Ministers' objective of returning power to locally-elected representatives on a basis acceptable to both parts of the community.

Legislation has been passed to give public sector tenants in England and Wales and in Scotland an extensive right to buy their homes and a Tenants' Charter of Rights, and to provide measures to encourage short-term private lettings.

An Act was passed to provide, among other matters, for the relaxation of controls over local authorities in England and Wales, including a new and more flexible system for controlling their capital expenditure, for a fairer system for the distribution of rate support grant to local authorities, for the regulation of local authority direct labour departments, and for the repeal of the Community Land Act.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

Legislation has been passed to remove the compulsion on local authorities in England and Wales to reorganise secondary schools on comprehensive lines; to give parents the right to express a preference for a school and to take part with teachers in school government; and to provide for a scheme to assist children of families of limited means to attend independent schools.

Special employment and training measures have been taken to assist young people and others in a time of high unemployment. Provision has been made for increases in social security benefits and contributions. A major reform of the supplementary benefit scheme has been initiated. Legislation has also been enacted to limit the increasing expenditure on social security. My Government have published proposals for making employers responsible for sick pay during the early weeks of an employee's illness.

An Act has been passed to assist the development of private medical care and improvements in health services. Steps have been taken to simplify the structure and management of the National Health Service.

An Act has been passed to establish the National Heritage Memorial Fund. Legislation to provide for a public lending right for authors has been brought into force. My Government have taken effective steps actively to encourage business sponsorship of the arts.

An Act has been passed to provide for the extension of the life of the Independent Broadcasting Authority for a further fifteen years; for the establishment by the Authority of a fourth television channel in England, Scotland and Northern Ireland, subject to strict safeguards, and in Wales of a Welsh Fourth Channel Authority with special responsibility for broadcasting television programmes in Welsh; and for the establishment of a Broadcasting Complaints Commission.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

My Government have substantially increased direct expenditure on support for the Welsh language. Legislation has also been passed to enable grants to be paid towards Welsh language teaching.

Further provision has been made in Scottish legislation to continue financial support for air services in the highlands and islands and to improve criminal justice and the treatment of offenders in Scotland.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend you.

9 October 1980

CONFIDENTIAL

THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT
NOVEMBER 1980

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I look forward with great pleasure to receiving His Majesty the King of Nepal on a State Visit later this month, and to visiting Belgium, the Commission of the European Communities, and the headquarters of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation.

I look forward with equal pleasure [to the State Visit of the President of Mexico] next year, to visiting Norway, Australia, New Zealand [and Sri Lanka], and to being present in Melbourne on the occasion of the next meeting of the Commonwealth Heads of Government.

My Government believe that the best hope of lasting peace lies in the effective maintenance of Western security. They therefore attach great importance to defence and to contributing fully to the North Atlantic alliance. They will continue to press for the complete withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan and for a political settlement acceptable to the Afghan people. Despite events in Afghanistan and Cambodia, they will continue to seek more stable East-West relations, will adopt a constructive but realistic approach to the forthcoming Madrid review meeting, and will continue to work for effective measures of arms control.

My Government support the efforts of the European Community to work towards a just, lasting and comprehensive settlement of the Arab/Israel dispute. They view with grave concern the present conflict being between Iran and Iraq and will continue to work with other governments for an end to hostilities. They will continue also to support the United States' Government in their efforts to find an early and peaceful solution to the prolonged illegal detention of the United States' diplomatic hostages in Iran.

Negotiations to find an internationally recognised settlement in Namibia in accordance with the United Nations' plan will continue.

My Government reaffirm their strong commitment to the European Community. They look forward to the accession of Greece on 1 January 1981 and to the prospect of further enlargement. They will play a full part in discussions to improve the common agricultural policy and restructure the community budget. They will continue to work for agreement on a revised common fisheries policy. Legislation will be introduced to amend the law about the Boundary Commissions' reviews of the European Parliament constituencies.

My Government confirm their commitment to the Commonwealth and the United Nations, and will continue to play a constructive role in their activities.

My Government recognise the serious economic problems that affect both developed and developing countries and will continue to search for solutions. They are ready to take part in an international summit meeting on co-operation and development.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

Estimates for the public service will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

The need to bring down the rate of inflation and create conditions for a sustainable growth of output and employment remains the prime concern of my Government. To that end they will take all steps necessary to maintain firm monetary and fiscal policies.

Plans for public expenditure will take account of the need to restrict the claims of the public sector on the nation's resources. Tax policy will continue to recognise the need for incentives and for the spirit of enterprise. Special attention will continue to be given to the encouragement of new businesses and to measures to permit small firms to expand and prosper.

Proposals concerning industrial training will be laid before you, and my Government will keep under review the programme of employment and training measures for the unemployed.

Further proposals will be brought forward to reduce the scope of nationalised and state industry, and to increase competition. My Government will take steps to permit private participation in the British National Oil Corporation. Measures will also be laid before you to replace public involvement in transport industries with further opportunities for private investment; and to reorganise the Post Office so as to introduce greater competition in postal and telecommunications services.

Legislation will also be introduced to amend the financial arrangements for the National Enterprise Board, the Scottish and Welsh Development Agencies, and the Development Board for Rural Wales; and to provide for a capital reconstruction of the British Steel Corporation.

My Government will continue to ensure that the nation's energy resources are appropriately developed and efficiently used. Legislation will be introduced to assist the conservation of energy and to impose a levy on the British Gas Corporation for specified gas purchases.

In Northern Ireland my Government will work towards further improving security and creating the conditions for sound economic growth. They will bring forward proposals for locally-elected representatives in the administration of Northern Ireland.

My Government are firmly committed to the maintenance of law and order in all parts of the United Kingdom. They will introduce legislation to improve the criminal law including repeal of the suspected person offence and will develop plans for giving effect to the proposals in the recent White Paper on young offenders.

A Bill will be introduced to change the law on nationality on the lines of the White Paper published last July.

Legislation will be brought forward to facilitate the education of children with special needs.

Measures to improve the law in Scotland relating to education and to local and civic government will be laid before you.

My Government will propose measures to improve road safety.

Pensions, war pensions and other social security benefits will be increased on 24 November and reviewed again next year. Legislation will be brought forward to place a duty on employers to provide sick pay for their employees during the early weeks of sickness.

Legislation will be introduced to enable improvements to be made in the health and social services.

Legislation will also be laid before you to promote the conservation of wild life and the countryside.

Measures will be brought forward to implement European Community directives on company law and insurance; and also to amend the law relating to the assumption of civil jurisdiction by courts in the United Kingdom and for the reciprocal enforcement of foreign judgments in civil and commercial matters.

A Bill will be introduced to reform the law of contempt of court.

Other measures will be laid before you.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS,

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

9 October 1980