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CABINET

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

Memorandum by the Secretary of State for the Home Department

1. The attached drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation of the present Session of Parliament and the Opening of the 1982-83 Session have been prepared by The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) on the basis of texts suggested by Departments. The draft Opening Speech reflects the legislative programme approved by the Cabinet on 13 May (CC(82) 26th Conclusions, Minute 4), and both drafts take account of the helpful comments made by colleagues on earlier versions.
2. QL have tried to keep the two drafts as short as is possible without distorting their overall balance. Both draft Speeches are around 100 words longer than the Speeches as finally delivered last year, largely because of the need to include passages on the Falklands conflict and our future policy towards the Islands. The present texts are, however, well within the 1300 words which have in the past been regarded as the upper limit for the Opening Speech.
3. Subject to any revision which may be required in the light of developments before the Speeches are delivered, I invite the Cabinet to approve the attached drafts.

W W

Home Office

22 September 1982

DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

The Duke of Edinburgh and I have received much pleasure from the knowledge that so many people shared with us our happiness in the birth of a son to The Prince and Princess of Wales.

5 The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State Visit of His Majesty The Sultan of Oman in March. We also recall with pleasure the pastoral visit of His Holiness Pope John Paul the Second in May, and the visit in June of the President of the United States of America and Mrs. Reagan as my guests.

10 We look back with much satisfaction on the visits we have made this year. We were in Canada in April to sign the proclamation of the Constitution Act 1982 and have just returned from visits to Australia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Kiribati, Tuvalu and Fiji. As Head of the Commonwealth I was present in Brisbane to close the Commonwealth Games.

15 We were greatly saddened by the death in August of King Sobhuza of Swaziland.

My Government welcomed the independence of Antigua and Barbuda and its decision to join the Commonwealth. They also welcomed the admission of the Republic of Maldives to membership of the Commonwealth.

20 My Government responded swiftly to Argentina's unlawful and unprovoked invasion of the Falkland Islands and South Georgia. They made strenuous efforts to persuade the Argentine Government to withdraw their forces peacefully but were

eventually obliged to resort to military action in self defence and to
protect the democratic rights of the Falkland Islanders. The Armed Services
and the Merchant Navy have earned the gratitude of the nation by the courage,
skill and devotion to duty they displayed in the course of their successful
campaign. My Government profoundly regret the loss of life and casualties
incurred. They have begun the urgent task of economic and social rehabilitation
and further development of the Islands.

My Government were deeply grateful for the support shown during the Falklands
crisis by so great a proportion of the international community, in particular
by the countries of the Commonwealth, the European Community and the North
Atlantic Alliance, and by the dependent territories.

My Government welcomed the entry of Spain into the North Atlantic Alliance.
They have continued to fulfil their commitment to real increases in defence
spending and have announced further measures to strengthen our defences and
make good the losses suffered during the Falklands conflict. They played an
active role at the meeting of Heads of State and Government of the Alliance
in June. They have taken part in Alliance consultations over the negotiations
on intermediate range nuclear forces between the United States and the Soviet
Union and have warmly welcomed the resumption of negotiations on strategic
nuclear forces. They have played a full part at the Second United Nations
Special Session on Disarmament and in other arms control and disarmament
negotiations.

With other members of the Alliance and of the European Community, my
Government have condemned the imposition of martial law in Poland. They
have continued to support efforts to restore the independent and non-aligned
status of Afghanistan.

My Government have played a constructive role in the development of the European Community and were able to make useful progress during the period of the United Kingdom Presidency. They have reached agreement on budget refunds for the United Kingdom for 1982, and have played a leading role in negotiations on the Common Agricultural Policy. They have continued to negotiate for an acceptable revised Common Fisheries Policy, and have participated in negotiations with Spain and Portugal on their forthcoming accession to the Community.

My Government have continued, with our Community partners, to seek a comprehensive settlement of the Arab/Israel dispute and an end to the tragic conflict in the Lebanon.

My Government have participated in continued efforts to reach a settlement in Namibia and have supported attempts to solve the problem caused by the occupation of Cambodia by Vietnam.

MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I thank you for the provision that 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 maintained the economic policies necessary to strengthen the foundations of economic recovery. They have continued to make progress in reducing inflation and achieving lower interest rates and have helped business and individuals through tax changes and improved incentives designed

70 to encourage the productive private sector and to promote the wider ownership of wealth. My Government believe that these policies offer the best hopes of achieving a lasting reduction in the present distressingly high levels of unemployment. Meanwhile, the help given under the special employment measures has been substantially increased.

75 Legislation has been passed to facilitate private investment in parts of the businesses of the British National Oil Corporation and the British Gas Corporation and to promote competition in the gas industry. An Act has been passed to reduce further the involvement of the public sector in transport.

80 Legislation has been passed to improve the law on industrial relations. A Youth Training Scheme has been drawn up, and other training arrangements have been improved. A comprehensive programme is being vigorously pursued to improve management and efficiency in the Civil Service.

85 Legislation has been passed to protect ratepayers from supplementary rates and to improve the accountability and efficiency of local authorities. An Act has been passed to clarify the powers of the Greater London Council to provide travel concessions for the elderly and disabled.

90 Provision has been made for the re-establishment of a representative Assembly in Northern Ireland, and elections to it have taken place. The Royal Ulster Constabulary, supported by the Army, have continued to serve the people of Northern Ireland with steadfastness, dedication, and courage.

An Act has been passed to give the courts stronger and more flexible sentencing powers, especially in regard to young offenders, and to make other improvements in the criminal justice system. Legislation has been passed giving local

95 authorities in England and Wales powers to regulate various activities which might otherwise cause nuisance or give offence.

Acts have been passed to amend the law governing jurisdiction and the enforcement of judgments in civil and commercial matters and to improve the arrangements for legal aid in criminal cases and the general administration of justice.

100 My Government have protected the real value of the retirement pension and other related benefits. The law on mental health in England and Wales has been reformed. An Act has been passed to establish a system of unified housing benefit and to place a duty on employers to provide sick pay during the early weeks of sickness.

105 In Scotland the law relating to civic government has been modernised and other changes have been made in local authorities' functions and responsibilities.

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

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

DRAFT QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

MY LORDS AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS

I look forward with great pleasure to my State Visit to Sweden in May and to my visits to Jamaica, the Cayman Islands, and the West Coasts of Mexico, [the United States,] and Canada in February and March.

5 My Government consider the security of the nation and the preservation of peace their highest priority. They plan to meet NATO expenditure targets, and to seek more efficient use of the resources of the Alliance. They will honour our worldwide commitments and protect the dependent territories.

10 My Government will be concerned to encourage the economic development of the Falkland Islands. An appropriate defence force will be maintained there, and at a later stage they will consider, in consultation with the Islanders, their future political development and security. Despite the present state of our relations with Argentina, my Government will seek to develop the long standing friendship of the United Kingdom with the countries of Latin
15 America.

My Government attach great importance to the Commonwealth and the United Nations and will continue to play an active part in both organisations. They are committed to a substantial programme of development aid concentrated on the poorest countries. They will work for balanced and verifiable measures
20 of arms control. They strongly support both the United States proposals for significant reductions in nuclear forces and the other Western proposals on conventional forces.

My Government re-affirm their strong commitment to the European Community, and will continue to play a full part in its development. They will work with determination within the Community to sustain British interests, and, in particular, to achieve a fair solution to the Community budget problem in 1983 and beyond. They will seek early agreement on a revised Common Fisheries Policy and a satisfactory outcome to the reviews of the Community's Regional and Social Funds. They regard the accession to the Community of Spain and Portugal as an important political objective. They will support efforts to resolve the trade problems which have arisen between the Community and other countries.

My Government will continue to seek an improvement in East/West relations, which have been harmed by events in Afghanistan and Poland. They will also work towards just and lasting solutions to other international problems, in particular in the Middle East, Namibia, and Cambodia.

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

My Government are deeply aware of the anxieties and distress caused by unemployment.

My Government's economic policies will be determined by the need to achieve a continued fall in the rate of inflation, a sustainable growth in output, and thus a lasting reduction in the numbers out of work.

45 My Government will maintain the monetary and fiscal policies necessary to
achieve these ends, including continued restraint in public spending. They
will promote efficiency and good management, especially in their own
operations, and will take further steps to encourage initiative and enterprise.
Continued help will be given through special employment measures to those
50 worst affected by unemployment. A new Youth Training Scheme for school
leavers will be introduced.

Measures will be brought forward to permit private investment in British
Telecommunications, to establish a telecommunications regulatory body
and to reform the Telegraph Acts, to encourage private undertakings to
55 generate and supply electricity, and to facilitate the introduction of
private capital into British Shipbuilders. Proposals will be prepared for
the development and expansion of cable systems.

A Bill to protect personal information held on computers will be introduced.

60 Bills will be introduced to facilitate the international carriage of goods
and passengers, and to improve the control of subsidies to public transport
in the conurbations. A further Bill will make provision for the construction
of a road tunnel across the Conwy Estuary.

A Bill will be introduced to improve the organisation of the water industry
in England and Wales.

65 Legislation will be brought forward to extend the right to buy and to
reform the system of building control in England and Wales, and a separate Bill
will seek to strengthen the statutory rights of those living in mobile homes.

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

70 Proposals will be brought forward to amend the law on equal pay in the light of a recent judgment of the European Court.

A Bill will be introduced to establish independent bodies with responsibilities for the management of certain museums and similar institutions, and for functions in relation to ancient monuments and historic buildings.

75 Legislation will be introduced to encourage improved and better co-ordinated marketing of British food and agricultural produce.

80 In Northern Ireland, my Government remain determined to create the conditions for a peaceful and prosperous society. The recently elected Northern Ireland Assembly will give elected representatives the opportunity to scrutinise the day to day workings of Government in the Province and to make recommendations for the resumption of devolved Government.

Measures will be brought forward to reform the Scottish law on mental health, to enable divorce actions to be heard in sheriff courts, and to alter the control of legal aid fees in Scotland.

85 My Government will continue to support the work of the services for the prevention of crime and the maintenance of law and order. Legislation will be brought forward to modernise police powers in England and Wales whilst providing corresponding safeguards for the citizen, to amend the law of criminal evidence, to reform the police complaints procedure, and to introduce 90 new arrangements for consultation between the police and the community.

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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.

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