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Prime Minister.

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PRIME MINISTERFALKLAND ISLANDS INQUIRY

I should be very glad to join in a discussion of the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's minute of 5th May.

2. In general I support his proposals. In particular I think he is right to reject the notion of a Tribunal of Inquiry and to point out the difficulties which the Defence Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee would have, despite their speed off the mark, in conducting an investigation which must necessarily involve sensitive intelligence matters if it is to carry conviction. I would be happy to have a word myself to Sir Timothy Kitson at the appropriate time, towards the establishment of an inquiry by three Privy Councillors. I agree that Lord Carr and Lord Cledwyn would seem eminently suitable. The third member might with advantage be someone with substantial experience of handling intelligence material; one possibility would be Lord Trend.

3. I am copying this minute to our colleagues on OD and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Ministry of Defence
10th May 1982