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PRIME MINISTER

*Small ad hoc meeting to decide
what to do - then OD.*

FALKLAND ISLANDS INQUIRY

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You agreed yesterday that we should try to fit in a meeting next week to discuss the form and membership of the inquiry into the events that led up to the invasion of the Falkland Islands.

I raised with you this morning the question of which Ministers should attend the meeting. You agreed that the Home Secretary, the Foreign Secretary and the Defence Secretary had to be there. Of your other OD(SA) colleagues, I do not think that we need trouble the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, but it would obviously be a good idea to have the Attorney General.

The Foreign Secretary circulated his minute on this subject to the whole of OD, and this has prompted contributions from the Lord Chancellor and, now, from the Lord Privy Seal (her minute is attached). The Chief Whip has also let it be known that, because of the substantial Parliamentary aspect to the inquiry, he would like to be consulted about the establishment of the inquiry. The Lord President could similarly claim an interest.

I think you have a choice between taking the matter to a meeting of OD, to which we would also have to invite the Chief Whip, and having an ad hoc meeting at which I think the following would be essential:

Home Secretary
Foreign Secretary
Defence Secretary
Attorney General
Chief Whip

To this list I think you would have to add the Lord Chancellor: he has a clear interest if you want to include a Judge among those conducting the inquiry, and in any case I think he would be distinctly put out if he was not consulted about a matter of this kind.

/ Do you

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Do you wish to go for OD or an ad hoc meeting?

Sir Robert Armstrong, in the more recent of his two minutes on this subject, offered to prepare and circulate a memorandum as a basis for discussion. Since we have now had contributions from a number of Ministers, I think that it would be helpful if Sir Robert Armstrong pulled together in a single paper the various ideas that have been floated. May I tell him to do so?

Yes please

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RAW

12 May 1982