



CONFIDENTIAL AND PERSONAL

Prime Minister.

To note.

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MR. WHITMORE

Falkland Islands Inquiry

Thank you for your minute of 16th June about access for the Committee conducting the Falkland Islands Inquiry to Cabinet and Departmental papers of previous Administrations.

2. I think that the formal position is that the papers concerned are the property of the present Government, and only the present Government can give or withhold access. It is for the present Government to decide who to consult before granting access. I do not think that there is any obligation on the Prime Minister to consult former Prime Ministers. If that were the case she would have to consult Mr. Heath as well as Sir Harold Wilson and Mr. Callaghan. She will obviously need to consult Mr. Foot; whether she or Mr. Foot consults Sir Harold Wilson and Mr. Callaghan is something which she could discuss with him.

RA

Robert Armstrong

21st June 1982