

**CONFIDENTIAL**

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

COPY NO

75

CC(86) 30th  
Conclusions

CABINET

CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet  
held at 10 Downing Street on  
THURSDAY 31 JULY 1986  
at 10.00 am

P R E S E N T

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP  
Prime Minister

The Rt Hon Viscount Whitelaw  
Lord President of the Council

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP  
Secretary of State for Foreign and  
Commonwealth Affairs

The Rt Hon Nigel Lawson MP  
Chancellor of the Exchequer

The Rt Hon Douglas Hurd MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Rt Hon Peter Walker MP  
Secretary of State for Energy

The Rt Hon George Younger MP  
Secretary of State for Defence

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP  
Lord Privy Seal

The Rt Hon Norman Fowler MP  
Secretary of State for Social Services

The Rt Hon Norman Tebbit MP  
Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster

The Rt Hon Tom King MP  
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland

The Rt Hon Michael Jopling MP  
Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food

The Rt Hon Nicholas Ridley MP  
Secretary of State for the Environment

The Rt Hon Lord Young of Graffham  
Secretary of State for Employment

The Rt Hon Kenneth Baker MP  
Secretary of State for Education and Science

The Rt Hon Kenneth Clarke QC MP  
Paymaster General

The Rt Hon John MacGregor MP  
Chief Secretary, Treasury

The Rt Hon Malcolm Rifkind QC MP  
Secretary of State for Scotland

The Rt Hon Paul Channon MP  
Secretary of State for Trade and Industry

The Rt Hon John Moore MP  
Secretary of State for Transport

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP  
Attorney General (Items 2-4)

The Rt Hon John Wakeham MP  
Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury

**CONFIDENTIAL**

SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong  
Mr D F Williamson (Items 2 and 4)  
Mr C L G Mallaby (Items 2 and 4)  
Mr A J Langdon (Items 1 and 3)  
Mr M J Eland (Items 1 and 3)

C O N T E N T S

Item	Subject	Page
1.	PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS	1
2.	FOREIGN AFFAIRS	
	South Africa	1
	Middle East	2
	Saudi Arabia	2
	Turks and Caicos Islands	3
3.	NORTHERN IRELAND AFFAIRS	3
4.	TEACHERS' PAY	3

PARLIAMENTARY  
AFFAIRS

1. THE LORD PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL said that the House of Lords would rise for the Summer Adjournment later that day and return on Monday 6 October. Of the Bills remaining to be considered, he expected the Financial Services Bill to take up a considerable amount of time, as many peers were expert in this field. The European Community (Amendment) Bill might also prove more troublesome than had been hoped. The other main Bills to be considered were the Housing and Planning bill and the Public Order Bill. Neither would be without difficulty.

THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR SOCIAL SERVICES said that he would like to place on record his gratitude to the Lord President of the Council and the Captain of the Gentlemen at Arms for their success in securing the House of Lords' agreement to the House of Commons' amendments to the Social Security Bill. The Bill had now obtained Royal Assent.

FOREIGN  
AFFAIRS

---  
South Africa

Previous  
Reference:  
CC(86) 29.2

2. THE PRIME MINISTER said that the Defence and Overseas Policy Committee (OD), at a meeting which had just concluded, had thanked the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary for the dignified and persuasive way in which he had conducted his mission to Southern Africa on behalf of the European Community countries. OD had expressed dismay at the manner in which the State President of South Africa, Mr P W Botha, had received the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, and especially at Mr Botha's remarks to the press after their second meeting on 29 July, and at the discourteous behaviour of the President of Zambia, Dr Kenneth Kaunda.

OD had agreed the approach which she and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary should adopt at the meeting from 3-5 August of seven Heads of Government from the Commonwealth to review the situation in South Africa following the report of the Commonwealth Eminent Persons Group (COMGEP).

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that he had received very different impressions from his various discussions in South Africa. The State President's attitude had been cold and dismissive. Though the attitude of the Foreign Minister, Mr P W Botha, was very variable, he appeared to have understanding of and some sympathy for the approach that the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary had been advocating, but to be unable to persuade his colleagues in the South African Government. Moderate members of the Nationalist Party and the head of the Broederbond sympathised with the concept of progress by negotiation and recognised the need for the release of Mr Nelson Mandela and other political prisoners and the unbanning of the African National Congress and other political parties, as a basis for a political dialogue. The ability of Mr Mandela to take part in dialogue was, moreover, a precondition for Chief Buthelezi's participation. The Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary did not expect early progress in South Africa, but his visit to the area had sown seeds and lit candles which might foster progress in the future.

In discussion, it was noted that the South African Government had been claiming in public, to some effect, that Mr Mandela's continuing

imprisonment was due to his own refusal to renounce violence. This was a deliberate over-simplification; the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's discussions in South Africa had taken place on the basis that political leaders in custody should be released so that all political parties could participate in talks and violence should be suspended or renounced on all sides. The real point was that Mr P W Botha was not willing to release political prisoners or legalise political parties so as to enable dialogue to take place.

The Cabinet -

1. Thanked the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary for the dignified and persuasive way in which he had conducted his European mission in Southern Africa and expressed dismay at the discourtesy of Mr P W Botha towards him.

2. Reaffirmed their support for the policy conducted in recent months by the Prime Minister and the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary on the question of South Africa.

3. Endorsed the conclusions of the Defence and Oversea Policy Committee on the United Kingdom's position at the forthcoming Commonwealth Review Meeting.

Middle East

Previous  
Reference:  
CC(86) 9.3

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the recent visit on 22 and 23 July of the Prime Minister of Israel, Mr Shimon Peres, to Morocco, was not likely to lead to any break-through concerning the problems of the area. But the visit had been of some value to both sides. It had given a boost to Mr Peres's position in Israel. Morocco's gain was improved relations with the United States. Egypt's isolation in the Arab world through its contacts with Israel had been reduced. But Morocco's relations with other Arab countries were suffering because of Mr Peres's visit.

Saudi Arabia

Previous  
Reference:  
CC(86) 19.2

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that Mr Peter Hall, a British national, and his Irish wife had been arrested in Saudi Arabia on 15 July and were said to have confessed to murder. There had been difficulties in securing consular access to Mr Hall, but the Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Mr Renton) had spoken on the previous day to the Governor of Riyadh and access would probably now be obtained. The outcome of the case was unclear. Saudi Arabian law provided for capital punishment for premeditated murder, but the extreme penalty would not necessarily be applied in this case.

Turks and  
Caicos Islands  
Previous  
Reference:  
CC(86) 29.2

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the potentially difficult situation in the Turks and Caicos Islands had been successfully handled. The Government had moved quickly but carefully to deal with the situation revealed in the report of Mr L J Blom-Cooper QC. The military forces which had been kept in reserve had not been needed. The Government's decisions had been well received in Parliament and by the media in the United Kingdom, as well as in the Islands themselves and there was no criticism from other Caribbean countries. The Constitutional Commission was being set up.

The Cabinet -  
Took note.

NORTHERN  
IRELAND  
AFFAIRS  
Previous  
Reference:  
CC(86) 28.5

3. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR NORTHERN IRELAND said that a special meeting of the Anglo-Irish Intergovernmental Conference had been held on 29 July. The meeting had taken place in a friendly atmosphere, and had passed off well. The attitude of the Irish Foreign Minister, Mr Peter Barry, had been more moderate than hitherto. It was clear that Mr Barry appreciated that his criticism of the Royal Ulster Constabulary's decision to re-route rather than ban certain unionist marches near Catholic areas in Portadown on 12 July had been unhelpful to the Government in its efforts to secure acceptance of the Anglo-Irish Agreement. The next focal point of tension in the Province would be the Apprentice Boys' March in Londonderry on 12 August.

The general public order position in Northern Ireland remained relatively calm, although there had been some particularly nasty sectarian attacks by unionist extremists, including one on a Northern Ireland Electricity sub-station.

The Cabinet -  
Took note.

TEACHERS' PAY  
Previous  
Reference:  
CC(86) 9.5

4. THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR EDUCATION AND SCIENCE said that a deal had been put together between local councils and the teachers' unions. Important issues, however, such as the extent to which teachers might cover for their colleagues, had not been sorted out. Discussion on these points would continue, and would take some weeks.

The Cabinet -  
Took note.

Cabinet Office

31 July 1986