

Prime Minister.

Ref. A08891

MR WHITMORE

We shall have to have another party. I've got to get some of the people who were included.

I am afraid that this was an oversight here. He should have recommended to you the inclusion of a small number of Cabinet Office staff in the press list. I apologise for my failure to do so. If you agree, I will give Sir Robert Armstrong the assurance he wants as X1 below. May I also say that we will give some other reasons to explain to his wife some of his people?

I understand that the Prime Minister gave a reception on the evening of Wednesday 30th June to which she invited members of the Armed Forces, Ministry of Defence officials and Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials who had been involved in the day-to-day management of the Falklands crisis.

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2. I do not wish to make too much of this, but I should warn you that news of this reception has caused unhappiness among members of the Cabinet Office staff who were also involved in the Falklands crisis. I am thinking in particular of those members of the Joint Intelligence Organisation (JIO) who maintained a day-to-day service throughout the three months of the crisis in providing a regular assessment of intelligence. The OD(SA) Secretariat was also supported at junior levels in order to assure the speedy and regular circulation of both papers and minutes for daily meetings of that committee. In both cases, the JIO and the OD Secretariat were manned round the clock by Cabinet Official officials.

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3. My concern is not with senior officials such as the OD(SA) Secretariat and the members of the Joint Intelligence Committee, who of course see the Prime Minister quite frequently, but rather with members of the staff at more junior levels. They may feel that they were deliberately excluded, and there may also be some anxiety that, just as the press has criticised the work of the Joint Intelligence machinery before the outbreak of the crisis, the fact that the JIO was not represented at the Prime Minister's reception implies a lack of confidence at the highest level.

4. To the best of my knowledge this office was not consulted about who might attend the Prime Minister's reception. If this was simply a matter of default, I should like to know that, so that I can assure those concerned that the absence of an invitation was not in some way an indication of a lack of Prime Ministerial confidence in the work that they do.

X

REA

ROBERT ARMSTRONG

2nd July 1982