

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 8.4.82

## FOREIGN OFFICE REVIEW

There had been no decision on the form that a review might take. What was clear was that the review would not cut across any investigations undertaken by the Defence or Foreign Affairs Select Committees. In terms of priorities obviously the business in hand came first and inquiries could follow later. Those whose conduct would come under scrutiny welcomed the review and faced it with confidence.

## HAIG VISIT

Haig was not coming as a mediator. He was coming as a friend to learn our point of view face to face. Haig was informed of the 200 mile zone decision shortly before it was announced in the House. There was no sign that Washington was in any way upset by this decision. The meeting should not necessarily be seen as the start of any discussions at all. To the best of our knowledge Haig would not be staying on for further talks tomorrow. We had no idea if Haig would want to return to London after his visit to Buenos Aires.

## OPERATIONAL COSTS

Operational costs would be met from the defence budget and from the contingency fund, which stood at £2.4 billion. A special tax had been mentioned as a payment option but costs were not of the scale for that kind of possibility to be considered at present.

## CRISIS MANAGEMENT

A small team of Ministers - sub-committee of OD - was in effective charge. This was wider than PM, Foreign Secretary, Defence. Exact membership would not be given. Mr Callaghan's idea of a Ministerial overlord would not be taken up either in respect of Mr Heath or anyone else.

## ARMS POLICY

Arms policy not likely to change following current experience. Last ship sales to Argentina in 1970. Last year we had sold only £12 million of equipment to Argentina as sales had been restricted in the light of human rights violations. Argentina had ordered naval spares in March but these had not been sent.

## NAVY STRENGTH

The details of strength and the line contained on Press Bulletin 85 were put.

## EFFECTS ON GOVERNMENT BUSINESS AT HOME AND ABROAD

Gibraltar - with mutual agreement talks and opening of border had been postponed. Things might start moving again at the end of June.

EEC Mandate - a meeting to be held at end of April.  
At home in the nature of things there was a tailing off of business towards Easter and in this respect there had been less disruption than might otherwise have been the case.

## PM'S MOVEMENTS

The PM was hoping to leave for Chequers either late tonight or early tomorrow. She would be in easy reach of London over Easter if a return was necessary.

## RECALL OF PARLIAMENT

If this was necessary it would be done.

## BLOCKADE DECISION TIMING

Obviously an operational decision such as this would have to have been taken only fairly recently.

GOVERNMENT RESHUFFLE - All changes had now been completed.