

REDUNDANCIES

The total Chatham workforce is at present some 7,000. However, this does not of course mean 7,000 redundancies. There will be some natural wastage - retirements and so on - and there will be scope, to move to vacancies, where these exist, in other parts of the MOD. Similarly there will be opportunities for non-mobile staff to transfer to jobs either in the MOD or in other Government Departments within daily travelling distance; and non-mobile staff can volunteer to transfer to work in other areas.

It must be said, however, that there will be redundancies and, as soon as the figures have been assessed, we shall be consulting Trade Unions on the timing and phasing of them.

There will indeed be some additional jobs created at Devonport and Rosyth. Precisely how many, and when, will depend on the form and timing of the expansion of the dockyard programmes there. This is still being worked out but we shall of course take every opportunity of offering posts at Devonport and Rosyth to those staff who will no longer be required at Chatham and Portsmouth.

On numbers, "some 1,500" at Devonport and 600 for Rosyth

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FALKLAND ISLANDS - RUNDOWN AT PORTSMOUTH AND CHATHAM

PR LINE

"Recent events in connection with the Falkland Islands crisis have not placed in doubt the broad defence policy set out in the Defence Review, which remains valid. 1984 is, still some time away; the rundown at both Portsmouth and Chatham is a phased one; and there will still be repair capability at both dockyards up to 1983. There is no change of plan on the abandonment of mid-life modernisations. When the dust has settled the MOD will of course be considering whether there are any lessons to be learned from the Falklands crisis, to see whether any adjustments might be necessary within our overall plans and, in this light and whilst the general rundown plan is intended to be adhered to, it has been decided to postpone for a short period the immediately planned redundancies."

Jim Reed

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Source:
CFS