

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11 AM date: 17.5.82

The Prime Minister will be working at No 10.

At 10 am she chaired a meeting of the Group of Ministers concerned with the Falklands (Home Secretary, Defence Secretary, Chancellor of the Duchy, Attorney General and the CDS). (Mr Pym is in Luxembourg at NATO meeting.) The meeting ended at 10.40.

At 12 noon she will hold talks, followed by a working lunch, with the French President on the international economic situation and the Versailles Summit, Community issues and the Falklands. The French Prime Minister will also attend.

MEETING OF MINISTERS

At 4.00 pm the Prime Minister is due to chair a meeting of Ministers (E: Local Authority Expenditure).

At 6.00 pm the Prime Minister will attend at No 10 a seminar and reception on Information and Technology.

IN THE HOUSE

There are no statements today.

ANSWERS OF INTEREST

No 16 Oral: Mr Hugh Dykes to ask the Secretary of State for Energy when he expects to announce a new series of licence applications for North Sea exploration. (Answer will announce details of eighth round, Department of Energy will make details available in the Lobby during Question time.)

No 76 Written: Mr Harvey Proctor to ask the Secretary of State for Education and Science when he plans to meet the representatives of the Liverpool Education Authority to discuss the report by HM Inspector of Schools concerning education in the Toxteth area. (Answer will announce the date - 26 May in London with Mr Heseltine attending.)

FALKLANDS

We confirmed that Sir Anthony Parsons had now returned to New York after lengthy and detailed discussions with the Prime Minister and the Inner Cabinet and that he would be meeting the UN Secretary General at 5 pm our time and we will be making another big effort to carry forward the negotiations. There is no reason for us to feel any more optimistic of the outcome than hitherto. We would expect Sir Anthony to have something to report to the Cabinet tomorrow after his meeting with Perez de Cuellar. We have not toughened our negotiating position. We are sticking to the basic essentials of our demands, which seem to present difficulties to the Argentines. They must have been glad to get the issue into the UN in order to spin things out - the classic tactic of the invader of Afghanistan.

Sir Anthony after his meetings at Chequers will be able to give the Secretary General a very clear idea of our Government's policies and attitudes. We cannot make any further progress if the Secretary General does not synthesise the two sides' proposals. It has been over a week already without success. But we are not questioning his bona fides. ~~But~~ We have not had a piece of paper from him.

We all accept that these negotiations cannot go on much longer. Attitudes must be clarified one way or another.

We shall get a reaction tonight. Let's wait and see what comes out of it and not be in a hurry to write these UN negotiations off. International opinion matters, but we are fireproof about the search for a negotiated settlement and our willingness to compromise on certain issues. People could not dispute that we have made enormous efforts and been very patient and restrained.

Asked about Argentines switching interim arrangements from hands of the Security Council to General Assembly we said it was another example of the way the Argentines operated. What we wanted was to see the re-establishment of the Falklands legislative and executive councils. We don't argue with the need for interim administration but those two councils are the democratic means of establishing the wishes of the islanders.

EC SANCTIONS

We did not feel the European Community were screwing us over the Budget issue. Quoted French Foreign Minister who drew distinction between the accountancy matter of the Budget and the matter of principle over the Falklands. Recognised that three countries had serious political difficulties over acceding to further sanctions - Denmark, worried about the Community extending its political competence over member states; Italy, with its unstable political establishment and problem of many nationals in Argentina; and Ireland's expression of neutrality.

We are convinced that we shall overcome these problems and we expect sanctions to be renewed.

EC BUDGET

We recognise that it may come to a one year settlement. We believe that the sooner the Community gets the running battle of the Budget structure out of the way, the better. We are prepared to consider a one year settlement because the original agreement allowed for further settlement covering 1982 if we failed to reach agreement on the longer term settlement. But we don't consider the money on offer is enough, and is not in line with the formula agreed in 1980.

JL

Written Answers to Questions

Friday 14 May 1982

HOME DEPARTMENT

Unpaid Fines

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he now has available any information on the number of fines remaining unpaid.

Mr. Mayhew: There is no central record of the number of unpaid fines. However, on 31 December 1981, the latest date for which figures are available, the amount of unpaid fines outstanding in England and Wales, excluding inner London, was £37,556,000, to the nearest £1,000. An unknown proportion of this sum consists of fines in respect of which the time allowed for payment had not expired.

Crime (Rural Wales)

Mr. Geraint Howells asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what are the main reasons for the substantial increase in crime in rural Wales since 1980; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mayhew: In the police areas of North Wales and Dyfed Powys, which cover the major part of rural Wales, the percentage changes between 1980 and 1981 in serious offences recorded by the police differed little from the corresponding percentages for Wales, or England and Wales, as a whole. On the general question of reasons for the increase in recorded crime, I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to questions by the hon. Member for Ormskirk (Mr. Kilroy-Silk) and the hon. Member for Aberdare (Mr. Evans) on 22 April.—[Vol. 22, c. 403.]

Citizenship

Mr. Field asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer given to the hon. Member for Birkenhead on 6 April, *Official Report*, c. 273, what would be (a) the price and (b) the percentage increase in fees for British citizenship if the fee were still payable on the acquisition of citizenship rather than upon application for citizenship.

Mr. Reason: It is estimated that to have retained the system of payment of the fee only on approval of an application for citizenship could have necessitated increases of 80 per cent., and hence a fee of £270 for naturalisation and discretionary registration, £90 for miscellaneous registrations, mainly entitlements, and £45 for minors.

Unnatural Deaths

Mr. Proctor asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will publish in the *Official Report* the annual figures for each of the last five years until the latest date for which figures are available (a) the total number of unnatural deaths resulting in inquests, (b) the total number of coroners' court cases concerning unnatural

deaths where a jury was mandatory, (c) the total number of cases concerning unnatural deaths where the coroner sat alone and (d) the total number of such cases where the coroner exercised his discretion to empanel a jury.

Mr. Mayhew: The information available on (a) and (c) is published for the years 1970 to 1980 in tables 5 and 6 of the Home Office statistical bulletin "Coroners' Statistics: England and Wales 1980", Issue 10/81, a copy of which is in the Library of the House. Information is not available centrally on (b) and (d).

Coroners' Courts

Mr. Proctor asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he has any plans to introduce legislation to amend the law relating to coroners' courts; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Mayhew: As my right hon. Friend indicated in his response to the report from the Select Committee on Home Affairs on deaths in custody on 11 November 1980—[Vol. 992, c. 151-2]—we accept the principle that all deaths in custody should be reported to the coroner that inquests should be held with a jury on all such deaths, and that coroners' juries should be selected by the process used for juries in other courts. These matters will require legislation in due course. We have no other plans to amend the law relating to coroners' courts.

Greyhound Tracks

Miss Fookes asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if he will take powers to require that a veterinary surgeon is in attendance at all greyhound tracks, whether licensed or unlicensed, in view of the policy of the British Veterinary Association on this matter.

Mr. Macfarlane: I have been asked to reply.

No. The extension to all tracks of the National Greyhound Racing Club rules requiring the attendance of a veterinary surgeon is a matter entirely for them, the British Veterinary Association and the management of the tracks concerned.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS

Argentina

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he will list the countries to which he has made an approach, since the unprovoked aggression in the Falkland Islands, requesting that these countries should not supply arms and munitions to the Argentines; and what was the nature of the response in each stated instance.

Mr. Hurd: The hon. Member will be aware that European Community members, the United States and Canada have all announced a ban on arms sales to Argentina. In addition, approaches have been made to a number of other arms producing nations to seek their co-operation in suspending arms sales to that country.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether any consideration has been given in recent years to the setting

up of facilities in the Falkland Islands to enable lamb to be stored for sale in the United Kingdom and other markets.

Mr. Onslow: Yes. The major obstacles have hitherto been the problem of an assured supply in sufficient quantities and the distance from possible markets. A promising inquiry was received from Birds Eye Walls Ltd. in February 1982 which the Falkland Islands Government was actively following up at the time of the invasion.

SCOTLAND

Weather Damage (Costs)

Mr. Eadie asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he has received the estimated repair bills from district councils as a consequence of the winter's severe weather which caused broken pipes, flooding and other damage to council homes; and if he will list individually such estimated cost of the councils.

Mr. Allan Stewart: I shall reply to the hon. Member as soon as possible.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Teachers (Shortage Subjects)

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what consideration is being given to designing special bachelor of education courses to attract mature entrants to teach in shortage subjects.

Dr. Boyson: The Department has encouraged training institutions to prepare courses of this kind; and my right hon. Friend has approved proposals for them from a number of institutions. Other institutions are known to be considering the mounting of such courses. My right hon. Friend will consider carefully the advice which he has recently received from the advisory committee on the supply and education of teachers about shortened courses of initial training in craft, design and technology, business studies and music.

Mrs. Renée Short asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science what steps he is taking to attract mature entrants to teach in shortage subjects.

Dr. Boyson: The Government offer through the Manpower Services Commission a special scheme of training awards and grants to mature entrants who wish to train to teach the shortage subjects. This scheme has provided support for more than 1,600 mature students on initial training courses since it started in 1977. Arrangements for its operation in the 1982-83 academic year were recently publicised in the national press. Provision for the training and further training of teachers in shortage subjects after 1982-83 is currently the subject of consultation.

WALES

Margam Coal Mine

Mr. Wigley asked the Secretary of State for Wales on what date the plan for a new coal mine at Margam was cancelled; what was the reason for this cancellation; and if Her Majesty's Government will reconsider its involvement in the matter.

Mr. Nicholas Edwards: I understand that proposals for a new development at Margam remain under review by the National Coal Board. This is a matter for the Board's commercial judgment.

PRIME MINISTER

Falkland Islands

Dr. Edmund Marshall asked the Prime Minister what were the contents of the telegram she received on 27 April from the President's Council of the Methodist Church about the Falkland Islands situation; and what reply she has sent.

The Prime Minister: It is for those who send telegrams or letters and who receive my replies to publish the contents if they so wish.

Official Stationery

Mr. Cryer asked Prime Minister if she will list in the *Official Report* the conditions imposed on the use of official stationery from 10 Downing Street; and if she is satisfied that business and commercial transactions are not conducted utilising official notepaper or forms.

The Prime Minister: The proper use of the range of official stationery at 10 Downing Street is well understood and the imposition of conditions of use are, as such, unnecessary. Members of a Prime Minister's family who live at No. 10 are properly entitled to use the address in correspondence and to make use of the informal uncrested notepaper. I am satisfied that there has been no misuse of official stationery.

NATIONAL FINANCE

Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre

Mr. Eggar asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a decision has been made about the procurement of replacement computers for the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre, Swansea.

Mr. Hayhoe: Yes, the new computers for DVLC will be procured by international competition. It is intended to advertise the requirement in the *Official Journal* of the European Community later this month.

Public Expenditure

Mr. Meacher asked the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the equivalent of table 1.9 of Cmnd. 8491 in terms consistent with the previous public expenditure series as given at table 1.7 of Cmnd. 8175 in 1980 survey prices.

Mr. Brittan [pursuant to his reply, 13 May 1982]: No. Public expenditure is now planned in cash. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 31 March to the right hon. Member for Stepney and Poplar (Mr. Shore).

SIC Order	Industry	1979	1980	1981
V	Chemicals and Allied Industries	21	104	39
VI	Metal Manufacture	147	72	158
VII	Mechanical Engineering	167	343	617
VIII	Instrument Engineering	—	—	17
IX	Electrical Engineering	—	875	593
X	Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering	—	—	—
XI	Vehicles	—	154	94
XII	Metal Goods not elsewhere specified	—	753	60
XIII	Textiles	425	1,233	201
XIV	Leather, Leather Goods and Fur	—	95	—
XV	Clothing and Footwear	47	607	130
XVI	Bricks, Pottery, Glass, Cement etc.	—	—	35
XVII	Timber, Furniture etc.	—	60	111
XXVIII	Paper, Printing and Publishing	71	128	140
XIX	Other Manufacturing Industries	—	158	115
XX	Construction	—	102	190
XXI	Gas, Electricity and Water	—	—	—
XXII	Transport and Communication	—	—	—
XXIII	Distributive Trades	—	—	—
XXIV	Insurance, Banking, Finance and Business Services	35	177	390
XXV	Professional and Scientific Services	—	—	—
XXVI	Miscellaneous Services	—	—	—
XXVII	Public Administration and Defence	—	—	—
	All Industries and Services	1,099	4,909	3,121

TRADE

Imports and Exports

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Minister for Trade, further to his reply dated 5 May, *Official Report*, c. 61, concerning profit margins on exports of finished manufactures in the year ending January 1982, whether he will publish in the *Official Report* a table showing for the latest 12 months for which figures are available the change in unit values of United Kingdom and West German exports of finished manufactures, motor cars or motor vehicles, consumer goods, investment goods, and products in section 7 of the Standard Industrial Trade Classification.

Mr. Peter Rees: Following is the information:

Exports of Manufactured Goods

	Percentage Changes in Unit Values February 1982/February 1981	
	United Kingdom†	Federal Republic of Germany‡
Finished Manufactures	+10.4	+5.1
Passenger Motor Cars	+21.9	+5.9
Consumer Goods*	+8.7	+4.9
Investment Goods†	+9.0	+5.5
Section 7 (SITC)	+11.0	+5.1

Notes:

* UK Figure excludes passenger motor cars

† UK Figure in Respect of 'Capital' Goods

Source

‡ Department of Trade

|| Preise und Preisindizes für Die Ein- und Ausfuhr—FRG

Estate Agents Act 1979

Mr. Hawkins asked the Minister for Trade when he intends to implement sections 16 and 22 of the Estate Agents Act 1979.

Dr. Vaughan: I refer my hon. Friend to the reply my hon. Friend, the then Under-Secretary of State, gave to the hon. Member for Birmingham Handsworth (Miss Wright) on 1 March.—[Vol. 19, c. 15.]

Crossbows

Mr. Ronald W. Brown asked the Minister for Trade what information he has as to the number of crossbows manufactured and sold in the United Kingdom in the years 1979 to the most recent date and the total number of crossbows imported into the United Kingdom in the same years.

Mr. Peter Rees: Because crossbows are not separately identified in the statistics, the information requested is not available.

Argentina

Mr. John Evans asked the Minister for Trade how many firms have notified his Department of loss of orders or contracts from Argentina or other South American countries; and if he will assist such firms financially.

Mr. Peter Rees: We know of one case where a United Kingdom company has lost an order from Argentina. A number of other cases have been notified of firms experiencing uncertainty which might ultimately result in the loss of orders. It is possible that companies with firm orders which are cancelled may be able to claim on ECGD if they are appropriately insured. But it is not otherwise the Government's policy to pay compensation for such losses.

Mr. Dobson asked the Minister for Trade if he will list any trade delegations or visits to the United Kingdom sponsored or arranged by the British Government since 3 May 1979 for Argentine Ministers, officials or business persons, together with the names of any British Ministers or officials who met them; and if he will place in the Library copies of any press statements issued or speeches made in the course of or about such visits.

Mr. Peter Rees [*pursuant to the reply*, 10 May 1982, c. 174-5]: The following officially sponsored trade-related visits have taken place since 3 May 1979:

28 April-3 May 1979—HE Dr. Jose Martinez de Hoz (Minister of Economy)

30 April-6 May 1979—Sr Ing D. Brunella (Secretary of State for Energy)

2-15 September 1979—Mr. O. Calgagno (Director General of Combustible Fuels YPF)

2-15 September 1979—Ing O. Mussini (Director of Drilling YPF)

10-14 September 1979—Capt Dolberto Frederico Valquez Salazar

10-14 September 1979—Admiral Carlos Albertos Barros

1-11 October 1979—Col D. Hector N. Iglesias

10-15 May 1981—General de Brigada Augusto Alemanzor

The Department of Trade does not have the transcripts of speeches made by these visitors. There were no press statements issued about these visits. The cost of attempting to establish the identities of the United Kingdom persons who met the visitors would be disproportionate.

Mr. Dobson asked the Minister for Trade if he will list those Ministers, officials and business persons who have visited Argentina since 3 May 1979 on official trade delegations; and if he will place in the Library copies of any press statements issued or speeches made in

connection with such delegations, including those associated with visits by Ministers or officials of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

Mr. Peter Rees [*pursuant to the reply*, 10 May 1982, c. 174-5]: The following official trade delegations have visited the Argentine since 3 May 1979:

6-12 June 1980—Lord Limerick, Chairman BOTB, led the British delegation to a BEAMA Symposium, accompanied by R. Howie, Private Secretary and A. B. Clarke Fairs and Promotions Branch, DOT.

5-10 August 1980—Right hon. Cecil Parkinson, Minister for Trade, accompanied by K. Long, Private Secretary, H. R. Owen, Commercial Relations and Exports Division, DOT, D. Woods, Press Office, DOT, C. R. Armstrong, Lloyds Bank International Ltd., P. E. G. Bates, Plessey Electronic Systems Ltd., E. Hawes, Rendel, Palmer and Tritton, H. W. Jackson, GEC Ltd., R. J. Dowding, Hawker Siddeley International Ltd.

19-25 September 1980—Right hon. Peter Walker, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food accompanied by G. Waters, Principal Private Secretary, T. Dawes, Chief Information Officer and P. Parkhouse, Under Secretary, External Relations Group MAFF, J. A. Miller, Milk Marketing Board, W. T. Mee and J. Bowcock, Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners, Lord Edward Fitzroy, Imperial Food Industries Technical Services S. A. Saker, Wolsley Hughes Export Ltd., T. Gardiner, Rowntree Mackintosh

27 May-1 June 1981—Mr. Kenneth Clarke QC, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Department of Transport, accompanied by N. T. Hoyle, Private Secretary, and D. G. Clark, Director Traffic Control and Communications Division, Department of Transport, A. Goldstein, R. Travers Morgan, G. Kennedy, N. Rothschild, H. W. Jackson, GEC Ltd., K. V. Smith, Transmark Ltd.

18-23 September 1981—Right hon. Peter Walker, Minister for Agriculture, Fisheries and Food accompanied by Miss K. Timms, Private Secretary, P. Parkhouse, Under Secretary MAFF, T. Dawes, Press Officer, J. Frapell and E. Carden, Milk Marketing Board, N. Saphir, Chairman Central Council for Agricultural and Horticultural Cooperation, M. C. Deverell, Barclays Bank.

Copies of press notices will be placed in the Library. Transcripts of speeches delivered in the course of these visits, are not available.

HMS "Edinburgh" (Salvage Contract)

Mr. R. C. Mitchell asked the Minister for Trade whether, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Southampton, Itchen, on 5 May, *Official Report*, c. 61-62, any public announcement was made by his Department on 16 April when the matter of the contract for salvaging the gold on HMS "Edinburgh" was referred to the Director of Public Prosecutions; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Sproat [*pursuant to the reply*, 13 May 1982]: No announcement was made.

Laker Airways

Mr. Dobson asked the Minister for Trade, further to his reply of 10 May and to the reply of the hon. Member for Aberdeen, South on 6 April, *Official Report*, c. 228, to the hon. Member for Holborn and St. Pancras South, how many of the 17,000 people who held scheduled tickets on Skytrain referred to in his answer of 10 May bought them between the date in December when Ministers were first officially informed of Laker Airways financial difficulties and the eventual collapse of the company.

Mr. Sproat [*pursuant to the reply*, 13 May 1982]: This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Scottish Airports Policy

Mr. Foulkes asked the Minister for Trade if there have been any recent changes in the responsibility of the British Airports Authority in connection with airport policy in Scotland.

Mr. Sproat [*pursuant to the reply*, 13 May 1982]: No.

Lowland Scottish Airports

Mr. Foulkes asked the Minister for Trade if his Department was consulted by the Scottish Development Agency in connection with the commissioning of a report from consultants in the Lowland Scottish airports.

Mr. Sproat [*pursuant to the reply*, 13 May 1982]: No.

Mr. Foulkes asked the Minister for Trade if he will make a statement of the policy of Her Majesty's Government on the future of the three Lowland Scottish airports.

Mr. Sproat [*pursuant to the reply*, 13 May 1982]: The Government's policy towards the Scottish Lowlands airports was set out in the then Secretary of State for Trade's reply to my hon. Friend the Member for Lincoln (Mr. Carlisle) on 13 May 1981.—[Vol. 4, c. 273-5.] There has been no change since that date.