

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11 AM date: 18.5.82

PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister will be working at No 10 all day and will be in the House this afternoon.

At 9.30 am she chaired a meeting of the Group of Ministers concerned with the Falklands (Defence Secretary, Home Secretary, Chancellor of the Duchy, CDS, Foreign Secretary and the Attorney General (Chiefs of Air, General Staffs, and First Sea Lord) which ended at 11 am.

At 11 am she chaired a meeting of the Cabinet (Falklands, including World Cup participation). All present except Mr Walker who is at the EC Agriculture Council. (Mr Macfarlane will be present for part of meeting.)

At 12 noon the Prime Minister will receive a courtesy call from Mr Mugabe (15 minutes). (See attached Bulletin 134.)

QUESTIONS

At 3.15 pm the Prime Minister will be in the House for Questions.

AUDIENCE

At 6.30 pm the Prime Minister hopes to have an audience of The Queen.

PRESS NOTICES

At noon: Appointment to the Development Commission of Mr Alan Leavett and the re-appointment of Councillor Clive Wilkinson.

Appointment of the Rev Arthur John Cheennell to the Vicarage of Little Thornton in Lancs and in the Diocese of Blackburn.

IN THE HOUSE

There are no statements today.

ANSWERS OF INTEREST

No 53 Written 4.00 pm: Mr Dafydd Wigley to ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he has any plans to introduce any form of compulsory military service. (Answer will say there are no plans.)

No 61 Written 3.30 pm: Mr Michael Neubert to ask the Secretary of State for Transport if the Committee reviewing the finances of the railways will be taking evidence from sources other than Government departments and the British Railways Board. (Answer will confirm that the Committee will take evidence from outside bodies and the public. Department of Transport will make details available in the Gallery.)

FALKLANDS

We saw no need for a statement on EC sanctions today and thought the week's renewal by the EC was satisfactory. We thought there was a good possibility for a debate on the Falklands later this week. We told the Lobby we expect the Prime Minister's reply to Mr Foot's letter calling for a 48 hour delay on military action whilst the House debated the issue, to be sent before Questions today. We said we have not seen the text but reminded them of the Prime Minister's reply in the House last week to Mr Foot's request.

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We said that the Cabinet today would be looking at the military position. We told the Lobby that they could assume that the Government has contingency plans.

We said the UK Government was now in a waiting posture and the Cabinet was not considering an Argentine reply which has yet to be conveyed to the Secretary General. We then expect an early reply from the Secretary General but not necessarily tonight.

We said we expected ^a definitive reply from the Secretary General to the Argentine response. The situation was building up to a climax. UK action would not be taken until we considered the conditions to be to our advantage. We said we would not talk about deadlines or ultimata but we would not wait for much longer.

We replied that in the event of a breakdown of the UN talks, we knew of no other diplomatic avenue and reminded the Lobby of the Prime Minister's comment yesterday in the IRN interview. In the same interview we said that the Prime Minister's references to 6 sets of proposals included Resolution 502 and variants of the Haig and Peruvian proposals.

On the question of self-determination, we said the position was fully set out in Article 73 of the UN Charter.

We said that today's audience with The Queen was routine.

We confirmed that the Prime Minister would be interviewed tomorrow on the Jimmy Young programme. We said distribution of the booklet "The Facts" was very wide, including Embassies abroad and thought that as is normal, translation would be made by the FCO, who would be able to give details of the print order.

SW

	Actual		Projection		
	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Students on advanced courses in polytechnics and colleges of higher and further education (excluding postgraduates)	6.5	6.4	7.0	6.7	6.7
1st year enrolments	3.2	3.2	3.5	3.3	3.3
Postgraduates	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
<i>Non-advanced further education: Home students (full-time equivalent)</i>					
Cmnd. 8175 plans	25.3	25.7	25.9	26.0	—
of which, 16-18 year olds on full-time and Sandwich courses	12.7	12.8	12.8	12.8	—
Cmnd. 8494 plans	25.2	26.2	27.7	27.2	26.9
of which, 16-18 years olds on full-time and Sandwich course	12.8	14.0	15.7	15.4	15.2

Note:

NAFE figures exclude students participating as part of the MSC new training initiative referred to in Chapter 2.4.

PRIME MINISTER**Falkland Islands (Media Coverage)**

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Prime Minister if she will ask all of the editors of the press and controllers of the media to ensure that no details or announcement of a character which may cause pain or suffering to the forces in the South Atlantic or to their relatives be made without first checking with the appropriate ministerial Department.

The Prime Minister: This has been done and I am sure that the editors will co-operate.

National Health Service (Pay)

Mr. Cryer asked the Prime Minister if Her Majesty's Government will make available sufficient money to enable Health Service workers to be provided with the same percentage increase as for judges and senior civil servants.

The Prime Minister: No. Special considerations apply to the groups covered by the Top Salaries Review Body, whose pay had been held to below the levels judged appropriate in 1980. To continue holding down their pay would have carried unacceptable risks of long-term damage to the Government's ability to attract and retain individuals of high calibre.

Public Sector (Pay)

Mr. Craigen asked the Prime Minister if she will review the 4 per cent. ceiling on pay increases to the public sector so as to enable settlements to be arrived at for public servants receiving lower levels of pay which fully reflect the levels of increase announced for the top paid.

The Prime Minister: We do not propose any general alteration in public expenditure provision for pay in the current year. Special considerations apply to the level of pay for the groups covered by the Top Salaries Review Body, which had been held to below the levels judged appropriate in 1980. To continue holding down their pay would have carried unacceptable risks of long-term damage to the Government's ability to attract and retain individuals of high calibre.

Falkland Islands (Inter-party Talks)

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Prime Minister on what dates her invitations to certain Privy Councillors to discuss the Falkland Islands crisis were made to those concerned.

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Gentleman to my reply to the right hon. Member for Glasgow, Hillhead (Mr. Jenkins) on 20 April—[Vol. 22, c. 122]. In responding to requests for consultations made in the House by the right hon. Members for Roxborough, Selkirk and Peebles (Mr. Steel) and for Plymouth, Devonport (Dr. Owen), I invited the Leader of the Opposition to join the meeting. I later responded to requests from the right hon. Members for Down, South (Mr. Powell) and for the Western Isles (Mr. Stewart).

INDUSTRY**Value Added Network Services**

Mr. Wrigglesworth asked the Secretary of State for Industry what means his Department has devised for assessing the acceptability of value added network services prior to issuing licences; and what criteria will be adopted.

Mr. Butcher: The Department's intention is to licence any person who wishes to run systems connected to the telecommunication systems run by British Telecom in order to provide services to third parties on condition that the services add value to the basic transmission service provided by BT. The criteria agreed with BT which will identify a genuine value added network service have been defined as follows:

A value added service is one which allows information to be interchanged directly between users of the service but not without first being:

- stored by the value added operator for the purpose of being subsequently retrieved or forwarded; or
- processed by the value added operator in such a way that when delivered the messages have been clearly altered as to format, protocol or content.

These criteria are included in a guide for licence applicants which was published by the Department in March. I have arranged for copies to be placed in the Libraries of both Houses. The Secretary of State has appointed a panel of three independent experts to advise him on issues relating to licensing.

way of haemodialysis for chronic renal failure or certain other conditions. Extra statutory payments have been made in these cases since September 1980.

DEFENCE

Seebohm Report

Miss Fookes asked the Secretary of State for Defence which of the proposals in the Seebohm naval welfare committee report are not the basis of current practice; and if there are plans for changes which do not follow recommendations of the report.

Mr. Blaker: Financial and manpower constraints and the need to make best use of existing staff have meant that professionally trained social workers have had to be introduced more gradually and in somewhat smaller numbers than envisaged in the Seebohm report, and a few posts are filled by naval personnel who hold the certificate of qualification in social work. An inflexible six-month limit on separation between naval personnel and their families is operationally unacceptable, although in practice only a small proportion of Royal Navy personnel have exceeded this. With minor exceptions the other proposals of the report are the basis of current practice. The requirement for professionally qualified naval personnel is currently being studied.

P110 Aircraft

Mr. Colvin asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is his policy towards the proposal for the P110 single seat, air superiority and ground attack fighter being made by a consortium of British Aerospace, Rolls-Royce, Dowty, Ferranti, Lucas Aerospace, Marconi Avionics and Smiths Industries.

Mr. Pattie: As a Tornado-related development the private venture P110 proposal will be considered, as well as advanced VSTOL, in our studies on future combat aircraft. As indicated in Cmd. 8288 we shall not be able to afford any direct and early replacement for the RAF's Jaguar force, but we are continuing work and discussion with potential partners on future combat aircraft and shall pay particular regard to collaborative opportunities and to export markets as well as to the long term capability of the British aircraft industry.

My right hon. Friend recognises the importance which industry attaches to the P110 and the need to sell it overseas if it is to be viable. We are therefore continuing to help BAe seek customers willing to contribute to its development.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr. Wigley asked the Secretary of State for Defence what is the estimated expenditure on nuclear weapons by the United Kingdom for each year over the past decade in constant money terms.

Mr. Blaker: The expenditure attributed to our strategic nuclear forces over the past decade, at constant 1982-83 Estimates prices, is as follows:

£ million				
1972-73	1973-74	1974-75	1975-76	1976-77
178	164	173	170	186

£ million

1977-78	1978-79	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82
197	173	196	206	300

The increase in 1981-82 is mainly due to the Chevaline programme expenditure which is now substantially complete.

Task Force (Media Reports)

Sir John Biggs-Davison asked the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the effect on operations in the South Atlantic of reports and discussion in the mass media of the composition, equipment, movement, activities and tactical options of the task force; and whether use is being made of D-notices.

Mr. Blaker: While the Government understand the need for public discussion on the operations in the South Atlantic, it is clearly important that this should be carried out in a responsible manner. Revised D-notices were issued to the media at the end of March by the defence press and broadcasting committee (composed of four Government officials and media representatives); a copy was placed in the Library. They are obviously relevant to the current operations and advice is given accordingly.

Argentina (Arms Supplies)

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether he can give an assurance that the supply of all arms and munitions from the United Kingdom to Argentina have now ceased and that action has been, or will be, taken to ensure that such arms will not be supplied to other Governments or arms merchants who may re-sell or supply them to the Argentines.

Mr. Pattie: All defence sales business with Argentina has been suspended and we are monitoring very closely the supply of military equipment which might be transferred to Argentina through third parties.

Argentine Military Personnel (Training)

Mr. Frank Allaun asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has any information about the number of Argentinian military personnel trained as pilots in Great Britain other than in Ministry of Defence establishments.

Mr. Wiggin: No.

Falkland Islands

Mr. Frank Allaun asked the Secretary of State for Defence why the Sea Harrier strike aircraft attack on the Falkland Islands at dawn on 1 May employed cluster bombs.

Mr. Blaker: This was a matter within the discretion of the commanding officer of the operation.

Northern Ireland

Mr. Sheerman asked the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has instituted a check on the health effects on military personnel called to the scene of dangerous chemical spills and leakages in Northern Ireland.

Falkland Islands

Mr. English asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether he will require the Independent Broadcasting Authority, in accordance with section 29(3) of the Broadcasting Act 1981 (c. 68), to refrain from broadcasting any advertisements by any corporation, if that corporation, or one of its subsidiaries or any corporate or individual person allowed by it, or any of its direct or indirect subsidiaries, to use its name for payment received, contributed financially to the 24-hour telethon supporting Argentina over the Falkland Islands which was broadcast in Argentina on 9 May.

Mr. Raison: No. We could not regard this as an appropriate use of this reserve power.

Ascombe Grange

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations he has received about the decision of the governor of Ascombe Grange open prison to allow 15 women prisoners, some of whom are convicted murderers, to leave the prison for a day without surveillance for the Pope's visit.

Mr. Mayhew: None.

Nuclear Attack (Casualties)

Mr. Moyle asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department, whether he has made any estimate of the number of serious burn cases, such as might require attention in a special burns unit, which might be caused by the air explosion of a hydrogen bomb of one megaton with its epicentre over Charing Cross; and what this estimate is.

Mr. Mayhew: No.

International Social Service

Mr. Proctor asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what is the total amount of money paid by his Department to International Social Service in each of the last five years; for what purposes these funds were allocated; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Raison: In the last five financial years the following sums were paid to International Social Service of Great Britain in connection with its administration of the repatriation scheme under section 29 of the Immigration Act 1971:

	£
1977-78	79,182
1978-79	99,393
1979-80	100,352
1980-81	121,474
1981-82	188,943

Animals (Experiments)

Mr. Murphy asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations have been received from individuals regarding animal experiments; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Raison: During the past year, about 1,500 letters have been received in the Home Office. The Government's views on the improvement and modernisation of the present legislation were set out in my right hon. Friend's observations on a petition, circulated as a supplement to the Votes and Proceedings on 29 April.

Registration and Naturalisation (Fees)

Mr. Freeson asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what publicity was and is being given to the new regulations as from 1 April for the payment of fees for registration and naturalisation;

(2) why the increased fees for applications for registration and naturalisation are paid at the time of application rather than when a decision is reached; and if he will reconsider this practice.

Mr. Raison: The changes were announced in an answer given to a question from my hon. and learned Friend the Member for South Fylde (Mr. Gardner) on 10 March and a news release was issued by the Home Office on the same day. This contained a table showing the main types of application and the new fees. Both the announcement and the news release explained that the collection of the fee at the time of application enabled the increases to be kept to a lower level than would otherwise be necessary. Community Relations Councils were informed of the changes on 11 March. Leaflets setting out the new fees are made available to all new applicants.—[Vol. 19, c. 423.]

WALES

Government Expenditure

Mr. Kinnoch asked the Secretary of State for Wales if he will publish for Wales the directly equivalent information on the Government's expenditure plans to that which is published for England in tables 2.3, 2.4, 2.8, 2.9, 2.11, 2.12 of Cmnd. 8494-II.

Mr. Wyn Roberts: The following tables show, for Wales, the directly equivalent information on the Government's Expenditure Plans to that which is published for England in tables 2.3, 2.4, 2.8 and 2.11 of Cmnd. 8494-II. The figures in tables 2.9 and 2.12 include expenditure in Wales as the relevant functions do not come within the responsibility of the Secretary of State for Wales.

Land Sale (Birkenhead)

Mr. Field asked the Secretary of State for the Environment if the district auditor is to investigate the proposed sale by Wirral council of the Oak and Eldon Gardens site in Birkenhead; when he expects a report; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Giles Shaw: I understand that the district auditor has investigated this proposed sale in the course of the audit of the authority's accounts for 1981-82, which is still in progress. It is for him to decide whether to report on the matter.

Property Services Agency (Design Work)

Mr. Marks asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what proportion of part I design work was put out to consultants by the Property Services Agency; and how much was done in house in 1979-80, 1980-81 and 1981-82, respectively; and what proportion he proposes for the future.

Sir George Young: The percentage of part I design work put out to consultants by the Property Services Agency in 1979-80 and 1980-81 was 35 per cent. and 37 per cent. respectively. The balance was undertaken in-house. The provisional figure for 1981-82 is 38 per cent. The aim is to increase this percentage to a little over 60 per cent. by April 1984.

Mr. Marks asked the Secretary of State for the Environment whether he has investigated the relative cost of part I design work carried out by the Property Services Agency directly and that done by consultants; and if he will publish his findings.

Sir George Young: A working group consisting of officials and private sector representatives is examining this issue. The group has not yet reported, and I have taken no view on the handling of its findings.

Property Services Agency (Staffing)

Mr. Marks asked the Secretary of State for the Environment what is the present total of staff of the Property Services Agency, compared with his target announced in June 1980 for 1983.

Sir George Young: The number of staff in the Property Services Agency on 1 April 1982 was 30,154 comprising 16,265 non-industrials and 13,889 industrials. No 1983 target for the agency was announced in June 1980.

Local Authority Expenditure

Mr. Kaufman asked the Secretary of State for the Environment under what statutory authority he uses grant-related expenditure assessments as alternatives to the spending targets for local authorities; and whether the Local Government Finance (No. 2) Bill at present before Parliament contains any provision to this effect.

Mr. Heseltine: The guidance or targets which successive Government have given to local authorities from time to time about their spending levels does not require statutory authority. I have not at any time proposed grant-related expenditure assessments as the targets for individual authorities.

Clause 4 of the Local Government Finance Bill currently before Parliament will provide express powers

for reducing the grant entitlements of local authorities that spend above their targets. An amendment to clause 4 has been tabled last week in another place to enable exemptions from such reductions to be given in relation to particular types of expenditure at the request of local authorities or the associations. This amendment will also enable exemption from grant reduction to be given to all authorities spending below their grant-related expenditure.

In the light of representations from a large number of authorities the proposals for grant reduction in respect of 1981-82 and 1982-83 which I have already announced embody an exemption for authorities spending below grant-related expenditure.

TRADE

Great Universal Stores PLC

22. **Mr. Arthur Lewis** asked the Minister for Trade if he will ask the Director General of Fair Trading to investigate the bid by Great Universal Stores PLC for Empire Stores PLC; and if he will make a statement.

Dr. Vaughan: The Director General of Fair Trading is currently investigating this proposed merger. He will be letting my right hon. and noble Friend have his advice in due course.

Multi-fibre Arrangement

Mr. Nicholas Winterton asked the Minister for Trade if he will estimate the level of imports expected in 1983 under the new multi-fibre arrangement in all categories covered by the agreement.

Mr. Peter Rees: It is impossible reliably to forecast future levels of imports under the multi-fibre arrangement. These will depend not only on the precise quotas still to be negotiated between the Community and the supplying countries, but on the extent to which these quotas are utilised. This in turn will be affected by the level of domestic demand for each product, the competitiveness of United Kingdom manufacturers, the level of imports from other third countries, and the general world economic situation.

Mr. Proctor asked the Minister for Trade whether he has any evidence to show that restrictions imposed by the multi-fibre arrangement increase the cost of clothes available in British shops; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Peter Rees: I will reply to my hon. Friend as soon as possible.

Argentina

Sir David Price asked the Minister for Trade what is his latest estimate of the effect of the economic sanctions placed upon Argentina by the United Kingdom's partners in the European Economic Community, by the Commonwealth and by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Peter Rees: I will reply to my hon. Friend as soon as possible.

Allied Supplies Limited

Mr. Alfred Morris asked the Minister for Trade whether it has been decided to refer to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission the bid for Allied Supplies Limited; and if he will make a statement.

Dr. Vaughan: My right hon. and noble Friend the Secretary of State for Trade will announce his decision in due course.

British Midland Airways (Route Applications)

Mr. Steen asked the Minister for Trade when the decision of the Civil Aviation Authority on the application by British Midland Airways for permission to compete with British Airways on the Heathrow to Glasgow and Heathrow to Edinburgh trunk routes was made known to British Midland Airways.

Mr. Sproat: The decision of the Civil Aviation Authority on the applications by British Midland Airways for permission to operate services on the Heathrow to Glasgow and Heathrow to Edinburgh routes was made on 21 October 1981. Both the British Airways Board and British Caledonian Airways objected to the applications.

Civil Aviation Authority (Route Applications)

Mr. Steen asked the Minister for Trade whether any guidelines have been issued by Her Majesty's Government since May 1979 to the Civil Aviation Authority to the consideration of applications made by private airlines to compete with British Airways on major trunk routes (a) internationally and (b) within the United Kingdom; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Sproat: No guidelines have been issued by the present Government and in the Civil Aviation Act 1980 we deliberately removed the power to give guidance to the Civil Aviation Authority.

Instead, section 13(1) of the 1980 Act gave the Civil Aviation Authority the duty of publishing from time to time a statement of the policies it intends to adopt in performing its air transport licensing functions. The authority's 'Statement of Policies on Air Transport Licensing', published on 28 April 1981, sets out the policies which the authority currently follow.

Import Controls

Mr. Proctor asked the Minister for Trade whether he has any plans to carry out a monitoring exercise to ascertain the costs of import controls both to industrial efficiency and the consumer; if he will estimate the cost of such an exercise; and if he will make a statement.

Mr. Peter Rees: I will reply to my hon. Friend as soon as possible.

EDUCATION AND SCIENCE

Higher National Diploma Courses

Mr. Beith asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science why his Department has agreed to allow higher national diploma courses in engineering to be discontinued.

Mr. William Shelton: Since the establishment of the fully representative Technician Education Council in 1973

it has been the policy of successive Governments that the council should eventually take over responsibility for validation of technician education courses. The replacement of HND courses in engineering by higher diplomas validated by the council is a part of this process. It has been considered very carefully over a long period, and I am satisfied that it will be to the benefit of engineering education.

Argentine Students

Mr. Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he has any evidence that the Government of Argentina are taking any action to remove from the United Kingdom the 400 Argentine students on the penalty of stopping financial aid to them; and whether he will consider making some temporary arrangements to finance these students if they refuse to be sent home forcibly.

Mr. Waldegrave: My right hon. Friend has received no evidence that the Government of Argentina are seeking to remove Argentine students from the United Kingdom by stopping their financial payments and cannot say at this stage whether it will be necessary to consider any temporary arrangements to assist them.

Universities (Students' Backgrounds)

Mr. Greenway asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science whether he has any figures available to him which would show the number of children who have gained places at universities and whose father was a manual worker or was from a similar social and economic background; and, if so, if he will publish such figures from 1967 on an annual basis.

Mr. Waldegrave: Figures published by the Universities Central Council on Admissions shows that around 19 per cent. of home students accepted through the council for entry into a United Kingdom university in 1980 were from families where the parents were in skilled manual, partly skilled or unskilled occupations. The council has also published figures for some earlier years, but these are based upon a different occupational classification and are not comparable with 1980. The published figures show that candidates with a given A-level results from all social classes have a similar chance of acceptance at university.

Teachers

Mr. Andrew F. Bennett asked the Secretary of State for Education and Science how many more teachers would have to be employed and trained to reduce all class sizes to below 30; and at what additional recurrent cost.

Dr. Boyson: In January 1981 average class sizes in England were 25.5 pupils for primary schools and 21.5 for secondary schools; at the same time 30 per cent. of primary classes and 14 per cent. of secondary classes contained 30 or more pupils. There can be no certain estimate of the number of extra teachers needed to eliminate these classes of 30 and over because it would depend on the extent to which local education authorities and headteachers gave priority to a reduction in class sizes over other calls on the time of teachers.