



CONFIDENTIAL

- (b) There were particular difficulties about releasing information about casualties.
- (c) The demands of the media for interviews with Ministers were often unrealistic and there were difficulties for some programmes arising from the time differences between military and diplomatic action in the South Atlantic and North America, Ministerial consideration in OD(SA) and Cabinet and the actual time of broadcast. Some Ministers were reluctant to undertake interviews in case minor inadvertent textual differences between what they said and official statements gave rise to speculation about differences of view within the Government and became newsworthy in their own right.
- (d) The crisis, now in its seventh week, was placing a considerable burden on the press officers in MoD, FCO and No 10 and additional resources were required. Some spare capacity in SAPU might be used to ease the burden.
- (e) There was a need for greater coordination between FCO and MoD on briefing material to be made available overseas.
- (f) The scheduling of meetings of OD(SA) at 9.30 am, so that Ministers could be briefed on events in the South Atlantic and North America on the previous day and respond to them, did not fit well with the long-standing arrangements for lobby briefing. This meant that Ministerial discussion and the preparation for lobby briefing at Mr Ingham's meeting took place separately. There was a need to ensure that Ministers were aware of the publicity implications of events and the options before them.
3. The proposed arrangements for the publication of a White Paper on the following day were outlined and suggestions for presentation and publicity were made.
4. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster said that the meeting had been useful and suggested that similar meetings should be held weekly. He invited Mr Ingham to bring forward proposals for strengthening press resources in the Departments concerned. To strengthen the links between OD(SA) and Mr Ingham's group, he asked Mr Fuller to report to him as necessary.
5. The next meeting was arranged for Monday 24 May at 6.00 pm in the Chancellor of the Duchy's Office.

HHM  
24 May 1982