

MOD STATEMENT - 0650 - 29 MAY

1. Further reports are awaited on the engagements announced last night at Darwin and Goose Green. No more information has yet been received on casualties, but we have learned that 1 Pucara aircraft was shot down in the vicinity of Goose Green during yesterday's engagement.
2. During the course of yesterday ships from the Task Force bombarded military installations in the Port Stanley area. The ships came under fire, but none were hit.
3. A further statement will be made when more information becomes available.

## Written Answers to Questions

Friday 28 May 1982

### SCOTLAND

#### Abortion Clinics

Mr. William Hamilton asked the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will list the names and addresses of those places in Scotland approved for the termination of pregnancies under the terms of the Abortion Act 1967; how many beds each has; whether any of them is owned and run by non-profit making charitable trusts; whether they have permission to do day-care operations; and whether they are approved to terminate pregnancies of more than 20 weeks duration.

Mr. John MacKay: The information is set out in the following table:

Name of place approved for termination of pregnancy	Approved for day care	No. of approved beds
The Edinburgh Private Clinic 19-21 Drumsheugh Gardens Edinburgh EH3 7RM	Yes	2
Stirling and District Nursing Home 18 Park Terrace Stirling	Yes	2
St. John Nursing Home 21 Albyn Place Aberdeen AB9 1RJ	Yes	2
Moat Brae Nursing Home Ltd. George Street Dumfries	Yes	1
Nuffield McAlpin Clinic Beaconsfield Road Glasgow G12 0PJ	No	2
Fernbrae Private Clinic (Dundee) Ltd. 329 Perth Road Dundee DD2 1EQ	No	1

None of these places is approved for terminating pregnancies of 20 weeks or more duration.

Information about the charitable or other status of the approved places is not available centrally.

#### Public Inquiries (Reporters' Recommendations)

Mr. Home Robertson asked the Secretary of State for Scotland on how many occasions a reporter's recommendations following a public inquiry held under section 211 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act have been set aside; and if he will list them in the *Official Report*.

Mr. Allan Stewart: Once. On only one of the three occasions on which an inquiry under this power has been held has the reporter considered it desirable to make a recommendation, as distinct from reporting the results of his investigation. The occasion in question was the recent inquiry into whether East Lothian district council had failed to carry out its duties under section 7(1) of the Tenants' Rights, Etc. (Scotland) Act 1980. The earlier reports on the similar issues affecting Dundee district

council and Stirling district council reported the evidence obtained at the inquiries but left my right hon. Friend to reach his own conclusions.

#### East Lothian District Council (Public Inquiry)

Mr. Home Robertson asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what were the grounds for his decision to order East Lothian district council to pay the full costs of the public inquiry held under section 211 of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 on 25 January and 8 February.

Mr. Allan Stewart: Section 210(7) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 directs that the Secretary of State's expenses in relation to any local inquiry held under that Act are to be paid by the local authority concerned unless the Secretary of State is of the opinion that he should defray all or part of those expenses. The Secretary of State did not consider that there were any considerations pertaining to the local inquiry in question which would have justified such an opinion on his part.

Mr. Home Robertson asked the Secretary of State for Scotland what was the cost of the public inquiry into the progress of council house sales in East Lothian district which was held in Haddington on 25 January and 8 February.

Mr. Allan Stewart: I shall write to the hon. Member as soon as I have sent East Lothian district council a note of the Secretary of State's costs.

### PRIME MINISTER

#### Civil Service (Staff Numbers)

Mr. Eggar asked the Prime Minister, whether responsibility for matters relating to (a) statistics of Civil Service numbers and staff reductions and (b) control of Civil Service staff numbers rest with H.M. Treasury or with the Management and Personnel Office.

The Prime Minister: These functions were assigned to the Treasury under the terms of the Transfer of Functions (Minister for the Civil Service and Treasury) Order (SI 1981 No. 1670).

### EUROPEAN COMMUNITY

#### Argentina (Sanctions)

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether the decision of eight European Economic Community countries to impose sanctions on Argentina was an individual decision or a collective decision under the Treaty of Rome; and, if collective, under which section or article of treaty the decision was made;

(2) whether article 13(1) of the Treaty of Rome was invoked by the European Economic Community Ministerial Council to impose sanctions on trade with Argentina.

Mr. Hurd: The original decision in principle to impose an import ban on Argentine goods was taken on 10 April by Foreign Ministers of the Ten meeting in political co-operation. That decision was implemented by an EEC Council regulation under article 113 of the EEC Treaty for



EEC products, and by a decision of representatives of Government of member States of the ECSC, meeting within the Council, for ECSC products. The decision on 17 May was made in the same way by all EC members except Italy and Ireland. From 24 May, Denmark no longer applied the Community legislation but instead applied equivalent national measures under article 224 of the EEC Treaty. The United Kingdom import ban which predates the Community ban, was also notified under article 224 of the EEC Treaty.

#### Afghanistan

**Mr. Austin Mitchell** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the European Economic Community Ministerial Council resolutions critical of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics' invasion of Afghanistan indicating whether any member State abstained or voted against any of them on the grounds of neutrality.

**Mr. Hurd:** The Heads of State and Government and the Foreign Ministers have made the following statements on the Soviet invasion and occupation of Afghanistan.

15 January 1980—Statement by Foreign Ministers of the Nine.

19 February 1980—Statement by Foreign Ministers of the Nine.

28 April 1980—Statement by the European Council.

13 June 1980—Statement by the European Council.

24 March 1980—Statement by the European Council.

30 June 1980—Statement by the European Council.

27 November 1981—Statement by the European Council.

30 March 1982—Statement by the European Council.

All these statements were agreed by consensus in political co-operation.

In addition, on 15 January 1980, the Foreign Affairs Council decided in support of the United States grain embargo on the USSR, that agricultural products from the Community should not directly or indirectly take the place of United States products on the Soviet market. This decision was also taken by consensus.

#### Council of Ministers (Business)

**Mr. George Gardiner** asked the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will publish in the *Official Report* a statement of forthcoming business in the European Community Council of Ministers.

**Mr. Hurd:** At present eight meetings of the Council of Ministers are planned for June. Heads of State and Government will meet in the European Council in Brussels on 28-29 June. The usual written forecast was deposited in the House on 27 May.

The Transport Council is expected to meet on 10 June to consider a European Parliament report on a common transport policy; measures to promote the development of combined transport vehicle weights; rail freight tariffs; railway co-operation within the Community; transport infrastructure and a proposal to monitor Eastern bloc road haulage. Ministers are also likely to discuss technical requirements for inland waterways vessels; the United Nations liner code convention; aircraft noise; inter-regional air services and Community air fares.

The Finance Council is expected to meet on 14 June to discuss the implications for the Community of the outcome of the Versailles summit, consider further the draft insurance services directive and agree a Community position in relation to the negotiations on the export credit

consensus. Ministers are also expected to undertake one of their regular economic reviews in preparation for the European Council, assess the draft fifth medium term economic programme in the light of recent developments and may also consider aspects of the draft seventh company law directive on group accounts.

The Agriculture Council is expected to meet on 14-15 June and may consider proposals for establishing criteria for determining the world price for oil seeds; proposals concerning tendering for export refunds in milk products; the use of the co-responsibility levy in respect of the milk sector and reform of the Community wine regime.

The Development Co-operation Council is expected to meet on 15 June to discuss North-South issues; food strategies; the forthcoming world food council; programme—non-project—aid by the Community, the problems of urbanisation as they relate to Community aid; trade promotion in developing countries; energy needs of developing countries and the role of women in development.

In addition to the informal meeting planned for 20 June, the Foreign Affairs Council is expected to meet on 21-22 June to discuss preparations for the European Council and to agree on further statements of the Community position on various aspects of both the Spanish and Portuguese accession negotiations to be made at ministerial level meetings with the two applicant States which will take place in the margins of the Council. Ministers will also consider renewal of the Community's steel anti-crisis measures, the review of the regional development fund, the Northern Ireland housing regulation and the Community's trade regimes with Cyprus and Malta. In addition, the Council may examine Community aid for Central America, the draft directives on liability for defective products and on the protection of consumers buying goods from doorstep salesmen and may discuss the draft company law directive dealing with the division of public companies—scissions—and the directive on group accounts—the seventh directive.

The Environment Council is expected to meet on 24 June to discuss draft directives on environmental assessment, cadmium in the aquatic environment and the monitoring of environments affected by waste from the titanium dioxide industry, as well as a draft resolution on the third environment action programme. It is likely that there will also be consideration of a draft regulation on the Washington convention on international trade in endangered species; of draft decisions on the consolidation of precautionary measures concerning chlorofluorocarbons in the environment and the exchange of information on air pollution, and of a draft directive on the control of major accident hazards. Depending on progress there may also be discussion of a draft directive on lead in the atmosphere.

The Research Council may meet on 30 June to continue discussion on the re-organisation of Community research and development; the future of the joint research centre and Community support for information technology. There may also be consideration of the programmes on medical and public health and on developing countries research and development.

The Fisheries Council may meet again in June to continue discussion of the outstanding issues of a revised common fisheries policy.



Mrs. Chalker [pursuant to her reply, 27 May 1982]: My right hon. Friend indicated in the statement of proposals he laid before Parliament on 8 December last year that he would take steps to publicise widely the introduction of compulsory seat belt wearing before the new law came into force. However, I am not prepared to lay the regulations, which will set out the proposed categories of exemption and the commencement date, until the outstanding issue of the fees for medical exemption certificates has been settled with the British Medical Association. They have said that they will be recommending to their members a fee of £19 for a medical examination.

## TRADE

### Argentina

Mr. Austin Mitchell asked the Minister for Trade whether he will publish a table in the *Official Report* for 4 January 1959 and each subsequent year showing the proportion of United Kingdom imports from Argentina to United Kingdom imports rounded to three decimal places.

Mr. Peter Rees: The available information is as follows:

Percentage by value (CIF) of United Kingdom Imports Consigned from Argentina 1959-81

Year	per cent.
1959	2.651
1960	2.152
1961	1.706
1962	2.077
1963	1.849
1964	1.419
1965	1.243
1966	1.187
1967	1.121
1968	0.655
1969	0.947
1970	0.733
1971	0.583
1972	0.691
1973	0.675
1974	0.403
1975	0.222
1976	0.298
1977	0.333
1978	0.387
1979	0.307
1980	0.233
Jan.-June; Sept.-Dec.	
1981	0.262

*Source:*

Overseas Trade Statistics and the Annual Statement of Trade of the United Kingdom.

*Note:*

Figures for 1970 onwards are on the current (1981) statistical basis and are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

### Vehicle Components (Exports)

Mr. Skeet asked the Minister for Trade what percentage of the total production of United Kingdom vehicle components is exported; and if he will express the total of overseas components imported for the completion of United Kingdom manufactured or assembled vehicles as a percentage of total domestic production.

Mr. Peter Rees: The information required to answer this question is not available.

## Information Technology

Mr. Ernie Ross asked the Minister for Trade what has been the United Kingdom's balance of trade in information technology for the three latest years.

Mr. Peter Rees: I regret that no exact answer can be provided because of the difficulty of defining information technology precisely in terms of commodities and services. In view of the variety of equipment and services relevant to the areas of technology in question attempting even a rough answer would entail disproportionate cost.

## European Community (Company Law)

Sir Anthony Meyer asked the Minister for Trade if he will provide an outline of the main proposals in the current draft of the fifth company law directive as amended by the European Parliament; and what is Her Majesty's Government's policy on the draft.

Dr. Vaughan: Copies are available, in the Library, of the Department of Trade's brief for United Kingdom Members of the European Parliament on the EC draft fifth directive on company law dated 19 February 1982. It contains a detailed summary of the Commission's proposals and of the European Parliament's Legal Affairs Committee report which was adopted by the Parliament on 11 May.

The Government's view on the draft directive, as set out in the brief, remains unchanged.

## Capital Goods Exports (Financial Support)

Mr. Michael McNair-Wilson asked the Minister for Trade if he contemplates any changes in the Export Credits Guarantee Department's support for the financing of United Kingdom capital goods exports in foreign currencies.

Mr. Peter Rees: I believe that the ECGD facilities which have been available in this connection since 1977 for financing United States dollar and deutschemark credits of two years or longer have worked well and remain a useful aid to exporters. The International Consensus on export credits permits preferentially low interest rates to be offered on credits financed in currencies for which domestic interest rates are low, and in agreement with the Japanese authorities ECGD will be extending those facilities to certain credits financed in yen as from 7 June, primarily where this is needed to enable our capital goods exporters to offer interest rates comparable to those available from competitors in Japan or other countries having like arrangements with Japan.

This extension also applies to ECGD's tender-to-contract facility, which is available for currency contracts with a minimum United Kingdom value of £5 million equivalent; but, in order to keep charges for this facility as low as possible, its terms for all new applications received after today, in respect of all the approved currencies, will provide for ECGD's trading accounts to benefit by the full amount of any exchange gains which accrue. At present ECGD does not benefit from any gains in excess of 10 per cent. of the expected sterling return.

From 7 June ECGD will also introduce a new forward exchange supplement facility to provide exporters who win contracts of a minimum United Kingdom value of £5 million equivalent, which are invoiced in an approved foreign currency and are either on credit terms financed in