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CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER'S
PRESENTATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

Note of meeting held in the Cabinet Office
at 6 pm on 2 June 1982

Present: Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP

Mr Goodall)	Cabinet Office
Mr Colvin)	
Mr Ingham	No 10
Mr Stewart	MoD
Mr Fenn)	FCO
Mr McInnes)	
Mr Fuller)	SAPU
Mr Hatfield)	
Mr Long	Chancellor of the Duchy's Office

In discussion the following were the main points made:

- a) There had been no major presentational problems since the group's last meeting. It was important, however, to act quickly to damp down speculation about divisions between Ministers. The line to take was that Ministers were entirely united in their objectives; that there was naturally discussion about the modalities of achieving those objectives; that the Government had a responsibility to its forces to consider any option which might prevent loss of life; and that, having agreed on a course of action, Ministers stood four-square behind it.
- b) There was likely to be increasing pressure to allow foreign journalists on to the Falklands once hostilities had ceased. A decision on this question did not need to be made now, but it would be needed very urgently once the fighting stopped. There would be serious logistic difficulties in agreeing to these requests, and it would be important to contain the impact on the life of the local community, given the large number of journalists who were likely to apply. There would also be problems over the definition of "the end of hostilities". Nevertheless, there could be advantage in allowing foreign media access to the Islands at an appropriate stage; and FCO, in consultation with

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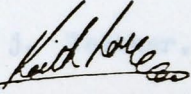
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MoD and others interested, was invited to prepare a paper for consideration in OD(SA) in the course of the next week.

- c) It was argued that once hostilities had ceased there would be great benefit in an inquiry into the handling of Government/media relations during the crisis, both for internal purposes (to learn lessons for the future) and for external purposes (to respond to constructive criticism and rebut that which was ill-founded). It was suggested that as a first stage a working group of the officials directly concerned in information handling during the crisis should be asked to prepare a report. The precise objectives of this report should be decided by Ministers, and to that end a short paper suggesting objectives should be prepared for consideration by OD(SA).


KEITH LONG
PS/Chancellor of the Duchy of
Lancaster and Paymaster General
4 June 1982

Circulation: Those present