

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11.00 date: 15.6.82

## PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is working at No 10 all morning and will be in the House this afternoon for questions and for the statement on the Falklands.

At 9.30am she chaired a meeting of the Group of Ministers concerned with the Falklands (Defence Sec., Home Sec., Chancellor of the Duchy, the Attorney General and the CDS - the Foreign Sec is in Saudi Arabia attending the enthronement celebrations of King Fahd) ending at 10.20am.

## CABINET

At 10.20am the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of the Cabinet [Falklands] All present except Foreign Sec and Agriculture Minister and S/S Scotland who are both attending the EC Fisheries Council in Luxembourg.

At 10.45am the Prime Minister chaired a meeting of Ministers. [E: local authority expenditure 83/84 (RSG hold back), Youth Task Group Report and Armitage Report.]

At 5.15pm the Prime Minister will meet General Ershad of Bangladesh (Chief Martial Law Administrator and Head of Government) for about 45 mins. He is in London for 27 hours before attending the UN Special Session on disarmament in New York.

At 3.15pm the Prime Minister will be in the House for Questions and at 3.30pm will be making a statement on the Falklands.

## PRESS NOTICES

Three separate appointments are announced.

The Rev Michael Edward Siddle to the Vicarage of Bamber Bridge, St Adain, Lancs.

The Rev Geoffrey Seagrave Pearson to the Vicarage of the Redeemer, Blackburn, Lancs.

The Rev John Kenneth Hall to the Vicarage of Helsby and Dunham-On-the-Hill Cheshire.

## PUBLICATIONS

At 11.00am CFRs will be available for publication today at 3.30pm of the Equal Opportunities Commission Annual Report 1981.

At 3.30pm CFRs will be available of the Report of the Charity Commission for England and Wales 1981 to be published at 3.30pm tomorrow.

## IN THE HOUSE

### STATEMENT

At 3.30pm there will be a statement by the Prime Minister on the Falklands

### ANSWER OF INTEREST

No 104 Written 3.30pm: Mr John Wheeler to ask the S/S Home Department, if he will make a statement about the report of the Mobile Radio Committee on the frequency requirements of the land mobile services. (Answer will be of particular interest to industrial electronics and broadcasting specialists answering that the setting up, following the report by the Mobile Radio Committee, an independent review of the radio frequency spectrums in VHF and UHF bands, and examine present and future needs and uses. The review team has been asked to report by June 83 with an interim report by Sept 82.

We reviewed the events of last evening. We said by early evening there had been reports of surrender by the Argentine forces. The Prime Minister met members of ODSA at the House at 9.30pm to prepare her statement on a point of order and after delivering the statement at 10.10pm she stayed in the House for drinks with senior colleagues. She returned to No 10 at 1.30pm where she spoke to the press and the members of the public outside. She said that the news of the Argentine surrender came through overnight and at 6.45pm we released the text of the Commander of the Land Forces' message which we read to the lobby.

We said the Government's mood was one of thankfulness, admiration for the skill of the armed forces<sup>and</sup> of awareness of the administration problems to be faced for peace and reconstruction. At this morning's meeting of ODSA the Chief of Defence Staff was asked to pass on the Government's congratulations to all members of the armed forces and then got down to work on the immediate and large administration problems but we could not go into details. We said the Prime Minister was informed of the surrender early this morning but denied that she had spoken direct to the Task Force.

We said the Queen had been kept closely informed of events and that the Prime Minister had not received any messages from foreign governments.

#### CESSATION OF HOSTILITIES

We hoped the Argentines would pronounce a cessation and said the UK Government would expect them to honour it. It would be prudent to seek assurances from the Argentine.

We confirmed that Menendez was still on the Falklands, but we were not clear whether the UK Commander's message had been relayed to the mainland through the diplomatic channel of the Swiss Embassy.

#### UN VISIT

We said the PM still intends to go this week to the UN special session on disarmament, but at present were unsure whether she would still be speaking on Wednesday afternoon in New York as planned. She may wish to postpone her departure from London to await developments.

We said the situation in the Falklands would not affect the nature of the Prime Minister's speech and talks with the Secretary General.

#### ENQUIRY

We reminded the lobby of the PM's recent parliamentary replies and said we did not know the names for the enquiry and thought it unlikely that the PM would give any details in her statement this afternoon.

#### PRISONERS

We did not know the total number of Argentine prisoners. We said we were not obliged to return PoWs until after the cessation of hostilities, though we had previously returned some because it was convenient to do so. We were not aware of any offer of help from the US at present. The PM could give some clarification over PoWs in her statement.

#### GOVERNOR

We did not expect a decision to be made immediately over the return of the Governor whilst the more pressing military and administrative problems were being handled. In the interim we said the Financial Secretary (Mr Rowlands) as the most senior member of the council, could be sworn in as Governor.

#### PM'S VISIT

We said at this stage it was important to deal with the immediate problems of the Island before deciding on arrangements for a visit.