

PERSONAL AND CONFIDENTIAL

PRIME MINISTER

You might find it helpful to have a check-list of matters which will have to be dealt with before a June Election if you decide to have one. Having consulted John and Michael (but no one else), I think that the list looks like this :-

Security

Publication of Security Commission report on Prime, and statement by you. Debate?

Foreign Affairs/Defence

Preparations for Washington/Williamsburg, including Washington speech

EC Budget - tactics, particularly decision about withholding, and CAP price settlement

Hong Kong - contingency plan for Chinese announcement of

Defence White Paper ^{their plan}

Nuclear weapons - Joint decision

Disarmament speech (House of Commons debate)

and possibly

Financial policy towards Argentina

Falklands airfield.

Home and economic

Local government - rates and future of GLC

Review body reports - TSRB, AFRB, DDRB, MPs.

Trade union reform legislation

Pensions separating for November

Possibly -

Outlines of rate support grant settlement 1984/85

Taxation of husband and wife (Chancellor is pressing for decisions in time for manifesto)

Some industrial relations problems (BL, firemen, ports) -

I have omitted less controversial or urgent matters (e.g. BSC and electricity, corporate plans, Alcan and coal price for Lynemouth smelter, electrification of Hastings/Tonbridge line). You also have speeches to the Cutlery, Scottish Conference, Women's Conference.

I hope that this gives you useful picture.

F.E.R.B.

22.4.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS/DEFENCE

Issues to be disposed of before 31 May

1. Preparations for Washington and Williamsburg
2. Washington Speech
3. EC Budget - complete preparation for withholding
4. CAP Price Settlement
5. Contingency plans for Chinese announcement of plan for Hong Kong.
6. Nuclear Weapons : Joint Decision
7. Disarmament Speech (House of Commons debate)
8. (possibly) Financial policy towards Argentina

Issues which could arise during June

1. European Council (6 and 7 June)
2. Reaction to Chinese announcement of plan for Hong Kong
3. Falklands Airfield - decision on location and tenders (papers are unlikely to be ready by the end of May but a decision is needed soon if work is to begin in September).

PRIME MINISTER

A forward look at decisions in the next few months

I have put in your box separately Sir Robert Armstrong's forward look at Cabinet and Cabinet Committee business for the period until the Christmas recess. This minute tries to give a more general view of calls on your time which we foresee - there will also be plenty that we cannot foresee!

1. ECONOMIC

(a) The Budget - The decision on uprating and other Budget decisions will have to be taken after the Chancellor's return, i.e. in the three weeks beginning 14 February.

(b) Pay - You know about the water workers. The outcome of the water workers' dispute will determine whether there is trouble on electricity and gas workers, and perhaps local authority workers. A list of other groups with settlement dates is at Flag A: much of this will be settled in E(PSP) or, for the Civil Service, MISC 66 and 67: you will be involved in cases of difficulty.

(c) Rates - Draft of a paper by Mr. King for your Group on Rates is about to arrive: then several meetings in February March.

(d) Public expenditure - Guidelines for the next Survey will come forward in late February, but substantive decisions will not come up until July.

(e) Other things - Serpell, aspects of the Telecommunications Bill, regional policy (conclusions of MISC 14), remaining decisions on Cable.

2. FOREIGN AND DEFENCE

(a) Inward and outward visits - A list is at Flag B.

(b) Dependent territories -

(i) Falklands - airfield next week and further issues likely.

(ii) Hong Kong - policy paper later this month.

(iii) Gibraltar - continuing.

(iv) Belize - decision on garrison later this month.

(c) European Community -

(i) 1982 Budget refunds - if there are further hitches.

(ii) 1983 Budget and later - policy discussion of 14 February and further work leading up to June Summit.

(iii) CAP price fixing - end March.

(d) Nuclear and defence -

(i) Decisions on INF talks - continuing over next few months.

(ii) Dual Key - late March.

(iii) A major speech? - as a contribution to the campaign

(e) Middle East -

(i) Arab League delegation/King Hassan's visit

(ii) Strategy - discussion later this month or early

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(f) Other matters -

(i) Visit to BAOR? - linked to June European Council?

(ii) Fitzgerald - Talks??

3. HOME

(a) Education vouchers - MISC 91 meeting have now started.

(b) Commission for Racial Equality guidelines - will come forward when new immigration rules have been settled.

(c) Security - decisions on positive vetting following the Security Commission report.

(d) Other things - A full list of subjects going to H Committee is attached to the Cabinet Office paper: the ones most likely to involve you are -

(i) House of Lords reform - later this month.

(ii) Review of Prevention of Terrorism Act - later this month.

4. PARLIAMENTARY

A nuclear debate and censure debate on unemployment are possibilities: apart from that the next occasion likely to involve you will probably be a debate on security in mid-March.

5. APPOINTMENTS

(a) Chairman of JIC

(b) Civil Service - some consequentials on recent Permanent Secretary appointments.

(c) Chairman of BBC - Home Secretary likely to come forward with names soon.

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- (d) Church - Bishop Guildford (mid-February);
Bishop of Sodor and Man (early April);
Archbishop of York and consequentials (mid-July)

6. SPEECHES

A list of the speeches is at Flag C. You have Ferdie Mount's minute about themes for these speeches: if you agree with that, we will put suggestions to you on fitting themes to each occasion and arranging some working sessions with the people you want to bring in.

It is going to be a busy six months!

E.E.R. BUTLER

2 February 1983

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ANNEX A

PUBLIC SECTOR SETTLEMENT DATES IN THE NEXT FIVE MONTHS

<u>SETTLEMENT DATE</u>	<u>NEGOTIATING GROUP</u>
1 February 1983	Electricity Supply - Technicians and Engineers (27,000)
1 March 1983	Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive Platform Staff (1,597)
1 March 1983	National Bus Company - Platform and non craft maintenance (31,945) Clericals and Admin (9,059) Skilled Maintenance (5,339)
20 March 1983	Electricity Supply - Manuals (90,000)
28 March 1983	London Transport Buses - Drivers & Conductors (19,420)
1 April 1983	West Midlands Passenger Transport Executive - Platform Staff (4,122)
1 April 1983	South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive - Platform Staff (3,177)
1 April 1983	Passenger Transport Executives - Non Manual Staff (5,400)
1 April 1983	Armed Forces (334,000)
1 April 1983	Civil Service - Non-Industrials (518,200)
1 April 1983	Top Salaries Review Body group (1,800)
1 April 1983	NHS - Administrative, Clerical and Secretarial grades (131,600)
1 April 1983	NHS - Ambulancemen (18,100)
1 April 1983	NHS - Ancillary Workers (211,800)
1 April 1983	NHS - Doctors and Dentists (94,950)
1 April 1983	NHS - Nurses and Midwives (482,600)
1 April 1983	NHS - Professions Supplementary to Medicine (36,400)
1 April 1983	NHS - Medical Laboratory Scientific Officers (18,000)
1 April 1983	Teachers - Primary and Secondary (England and Wales) (452,000)
1 April 1983	Teachers - Further Education (England and Wales) (80,000)
1 April 1983	Teachers - Primary and Secondary (Scotland) (54,910)

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SETTLEMENT DATE

NEGOTIATING GROUP

1 April 1983	Teachers - Further Education (Scotland) (7,750)
1 April 1983	Universities - Non-Clinical Academic Staff (40,000)
1 April 1983	Universities - Manual Workers (11,000)
1 April 1983	BBC - Manuals and non-manuals (27,500)
1 April 1983	British Shipbuilders (67,000)
1 April 1983	Post Office - UCW Postal grades (156,000)
1 April 1983	Post Office - CMA grades (14,800)
3 April 1983	London Country Buses - Platform staff, catering and miscellaneous grades (2,295)
18 April 1983	Stathclyde Passenger Transport Executive - Platform Staff (1,847)
19 April 1983	British Rail - Clerical and Conciliation grades (136,000)
19 April 1983	British Rail - Workshop grades (50,000)
20 April 1983	London Transport - Rail Conciliation grades (14,152)
20 April 1983	London Transport - Rail Workshop grades (3,550)
22 April 1983	London Transport - Road Workshop grades (3,300)
30 April 1983	West Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive - Platform staff (2,812)
1 May 1983	Electricity Supply - clericals (47,400)
1 June 1983	Gas Supply - Staff and senior officers (57,700)

CONFIDENTIAL

INWARD AND OUTWARD VISITS

	<u>Inward</u>	<u>Outward</u>
4 February	Chancellor Kohl	
9 February	Vice-President Bush	
16 February	Deputy Prime Minister of Iraq	
? February	King Hassan and Arab League Delegation	
24 February	Signor Fanfani	
2 March	Mr. Lubbers	
21-22 March		European Council
23 March	President Kaunda	
18 April	Sultan of Oman	
21-22 April	Chancellor Kohl	
4 May	President Machel	
18 May (or 15 June)	Yugoslav Prime Minister	
27-31 May		Economic Summit, Washington
6-7 June		European Council

SPEECHES

Saturday 12 February	:	YC Conference, Bournemouth
Wednesday 23 February	:	Institute of Directors
Saturday 26 March	:	Central Council
Friday 15 April	:	Candidates Conference
Tuesday 19 April	:	CBI Dinner
Thursday 28 April	:	Cutlers Feast
Friday 13 May	:	Scottish Conference
Saturday 21 May	:	Women's Conference
Friday 27 May?	:	Speech in Washington
Saturday 18 June	:	Welsh Conference
Thursday 23 June	:	1900 Club
Friday 24 June	:	EDU Conference ?

MR. BUTLER

You asked for a list of decisions which are coming up in the next few weeks - in particular, decisions which cannot be postponed.

First and foremost is the next set of decisions on local government and rates, including the abolition of the GLC, the metropolitan counties, the new arrangements for the ILEA and for London Transport. The Cabinet will be considering the ILEA, and perhaps others of these issues on 12 May.

Then we have the Review Body reports - TSRB, AFRB, DDRB and MPs' pay.

Then there is the need to approve the trade union reformation legislation, and define the Government's attitude to the reactions to the Green Paper on this. As you know, E Committee is taking this on Thursday.

It will be highly desirable to settle the broad outlines of the Rate Support Grant settlement for 1984/85 before the end of May, so that the local authorities can be told in July what the aggregates are, in the hope of influencing their behaviour in time.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer ^{is today} ~~will be~~ ^(in the weekend box) arguing that the Government should clear its mind soon - certainly in time for the Manifesto - on the taxation of man and wife and the whole issue of the Independent and Transferable Taxation Allowance (ITTA). The Prime Minister may well disagree that this needs to be settled quickly, but a number of colleagues will agree with the Chancellor.

There are, too, a number of smaller issues, which, nevertheless, might prove awkward in certain circumstances. There is the issue of the Lynemouth Smelter, where there is a dispute between Alcan and the NCB about the price of coal to be supplied

/ to Alcan

to Alcan, and on which the Government may be pressed to intervene. There is also the question of the electrification of the Hastings/Tonbridge railway line.

The only other issue I can think of is the possibility of industrial disputes - eg at BL, or in the docks or with the firemen.

MCS

22 April 1983

GOVERNMENT LEGISLATION(i) Second Reading

Importation of Milk

ø Litter (L)

Petroleum Royalties (Relief)

(ii) Standing Committee

Data Protection (L)

Education (Fees and Awards)

Finance

Marriage (L)

Mental Health (Amendment)(Scotland) (L)

(iii) Report and Third Reading

Dentists (L)

Health and Social Services and Social Security Adjudications (L)

Local Authorities (Expenditure Powers)

Mobile Homes (L)

National Heritage (L)

Police and Criminal Evidence

(iv) Lords Amendments

Water

(v) Orders and Regulations

	Date Laid	Whether Controversial	Date Required
* Agricultural and Horticultural	11/4	No	By 6/5
Civil Defence (2 Orders)	28/4	No	By 17/6
* Customs Duties	31/3	No	By end of April
* Hovercraft	21/4	No	By 12/5
* Merchant Shipping	21/4	No	By 12/5
* Misuse of Drugs	29/3	No	No deadline
* Property (N.I.)	19/4	No	No deadline
* Rates (Amendment No.2) (N.I.)	19/4	No	By P.C. meeting on 18/5
Saint Christopher and Nevis	22/4	No	For debate, 5/5
* Supplementary Benefit	29/3	No	By beginning of May
Traffic Areas	24/2	No	A.S.A.P.
Weights and Measures (2 Orders)	28/4	No	By Whitsun

* S.I. Committee

ø Consolidation

Lords

Agricultural Holdings (Amendment) (Scotland)

ø Car Tax (L)

Energy

Housing and Building Control

ø Medical (L)

Miscellaneous Financial Provisions

Ports (Reduction of Debt)

Social Security and Housing Benefits

Telecommunications

ø Value Added Tax (L)

Awaiting Royal Assent

British Shipbuilders

ø Matrimonial Homes (L)

ø Mental Health (L)

Nuclear Material (Offences)

Plant Varieties (L)

ø Pilotage (L)

ø Consolidation

Bills placed upon the Statute Book (17)

Agricultural Marketing 1983
British Fishing Boats 1983
Civil Aviation (Eurocontrol) 1983
Commonwealth Development Corporation 1982
Consolidated Fund 1983
Consolidated Fund (No 2) 1983
Conwy Tunnel (Supplementary Powers) 1983
Currency 1983
Divorce Jurisdiction, Court Fees and Legal Aid (Scotland) 1983
Electricity (Financial Provisions) (Scotland) 1982
International Transport Conventions 1983
Lands Valuation Amendment (Scotland) 1982
Merchant Shipping 1983
National Insurance Surcharge 1982
Pig Industry Levy 1983
Representation of the People 1983
Transport 1983

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