

MR. BUTLER

ELECTION ANNOUNCEMENT

Attached is the usual form of an election announcement.

I set out attached a Q&A brief for press officers which requires some elaboration and the Prime Minister's approval.

I need it before I hold any lobby on an announcement.

Other points

I have told the BBC the Prime Minister does not intend to give a Ministerial broadcast.

I assume she will not wish to give short news interviews to BBC, ITN and IRN - immediately after the announcement; but the arguments for and against are finely balanced. These would give her an opportunity to explain her decision, to present it positively and to meet in advance any Opposition party criticisms in advance; but it could subject her to critical questioning. The fact that she refused to give interviews might prevent interviews with other leaders being broadcast on grounds of balance, though we cannot count on that. We need a decision on this.

I would expect the Jimmy Young Programme and Thames TV Eye requests to fall.

B. INGHAM

9 May 1983

PRESS NOTICE

GENERAL ELECTION, MAY 1979

The Prime Minister has today asked Her Majesty The Queen to proclaim the Dissolution of Parliament. Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to signify that She will comply with this request.

In order to complete essential financial and other business, Parliament will sit until Wednesday, 4 April. Dissolution will take place on Saturday, 7 April. The General Election will take place on Thursday, 3 May, concurrently with the local government elections in England and Wales; the legislation necessary to facilitate this will need to be enacted before Parliament adjourns on 4 April.

The new Parliament will be summoned on Wednesday, 9 May, when the first business will be the election of the Speaker and the swearing-in of members, and the State Opening will be on Tuesday, 15 May.

10 Downing Street,  
Whitehall, S.W.1.

29 March, 1979



DRAFT Q & A

- Q. Why has the Prime Minister gone for June 9?
- A. Because, as she said on BBC yesterday, she believes it is in the national interest that she now ends the uncertainty about a General Election and makes it possible for a Government to be elected with a clear mandate for a new term of office.
- Q. But is she not also going now because she thinks that her Government has the best chance of being re-elected now.
- A. She is certainly confident that she will win now. She considers that a Conservative victory would also be in the national interest.
- Q. What were the arguments in favour of June 9 rather than June 16 or 23?
- A. The feeling in the Government and Party is that the country is ready for an election so why delay? Get it over with and out of the way.
- Q. Will the Prime Minister go to Williamsburg?
- A. The United Kingdom will be represented at Williamsburg. The Prime Minister is considering the question of representation in the light of her decision about the General Election.
- Q. Will the visit to the USA, however, be curtailed?
- A. This is under consideration.
- Q. Will the Prime Minister go to Stuttgart, only 2-3 days before polling?
- A. Again the United Kingdom will be represented and the Prime Minister is considering representation.

Q. Does the fact that this is a more open question mean that you doubt you will get a Budget settlement?

A. No. We are determined to get a Budget settlement because, as the Prime Minister has made repeatedly clear, we have a just cause; there is a problem that needs to be dealt with; and our partners in our position would be taking exactly the same line.

Q. When was the decision taken to go for June 9?

A. Today, when the Prime Minister was satisfied everything was ready.

Q. Why did the Prime Minister move so fast?

A. She usually does when she has made up her mind. In any case, it makes sense in terms of clearing up at Westminster.

Q. How many Bills will go by the board?

A. I cannot say at this stage. That depends on the usual negotiations. The Leader of the House will make a Business Statement following those negotiations.





10 DOWNING STREET

THE PRIME MINISTER

29 March, 1979.

*Dear Margaret,*

I am writing to let you know that I have this morning asked The Queen to proclaim a Dissolution of Parliament. She has been pleased to comply with this request.

Parliament will be dissolved on ~~Saturday, 7 April~~, <sup>Friday 13 May</sup> and the General Election will be on Thursday, ~~3 May~~, <sup>9 June</sup>. In the interval between now and ~~4 April~~, <sup>12 May</sup> Parliament will transact essential financial and other outstanding business.

The new Parliament will be summoned for ~~Wednesday~~, <sup>Wednesday</sup> ~~9 May~~, <sup>Thursday</sup> ~~15 May~~, when the House of Commons will elect the Speaker and swear in Members. The State Opening of the new Parliament will be on ~~Thursday, 15 May~~, <sup>Tuesday 22 June</sup> ~~Wednesday 22 June~~.

The announcement of the Dissolution and the consequent Election will be issued <sup>before 2.30 p.m.</sup> at 2.00 p.m. today from 10 Downing Street - a copy of the announcement is enclosed.

/ This

*DB*



This letter is for your personal information, and I should be grateful if you would treat it accordingly until the announcement is made at ~~2.00 p.m.~~

Yours sincerely  
Jim Callaghan

The Rt. Hon. Margaret Thatcher, M.P.

*cd whk*  
*File*

BUSINESS OF THE HOUSE

MONDAY 9TH MAY, 1983

LEADER OF THE HOUSE,

ON A POINT OF ORDER, MR. SPEAKER, I SHOULD LIKE TO MAKE  
A BRIEF ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT BUSINESS TODAY.

IN VIEW OF THE PRIME MINISTER'S ANNOUNCEMENT I THINK IT  
WOULD BE FOR THE CONVENIENCE OF THE HOUSE IF WE WERE NOT TO  
PROCEED WITH THE MAIN BUSINESS ON THE ORDER PAPER TODAY,  
THE POLICE AND CRIMINAL EVIDENCE BILL, BUT TO MOVE STRAIGHT  
TO ITEM 2, THE MOTION ON THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY DOCUMENT ON  
THE SPECIAL PROGRAMME TO COMBAT HUNGER IN THE WORLD.

FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS THROUGH THE USUAL CHANNELS THE  
BUSINESS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE WEEK WILL BE RE-ARRANGED  
AND I PROPOSE TO MAKE A FURTHER STATEMENT TO THE HOUSE LATER  
TODAY.

IT WILL BE MY INTENTION THAT THE HOUSE SHOULD BE GIVEN  
APPROPRIATE ADVANCE WARNING OF MY STATEMENT.

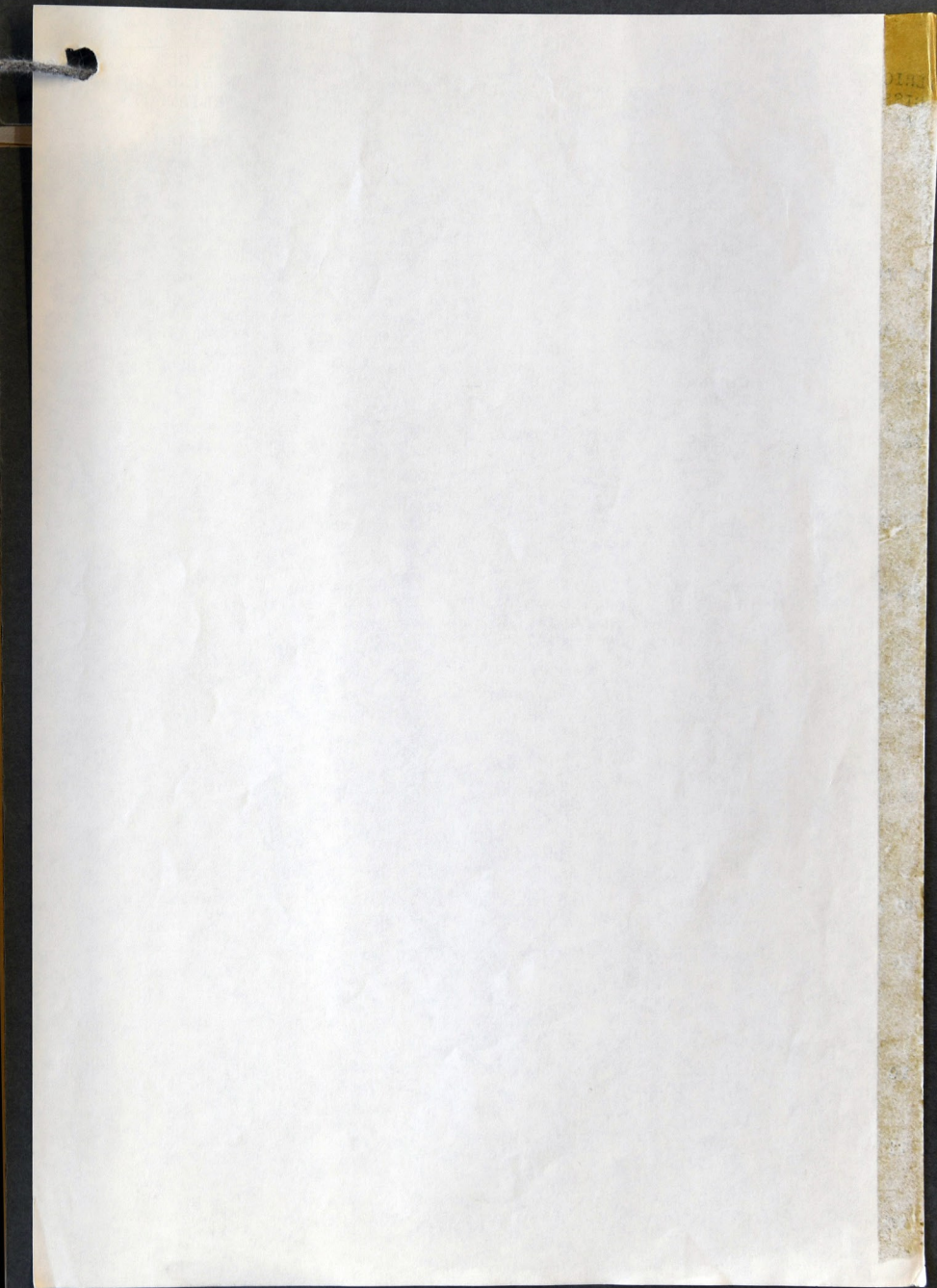


14RB

PERIOD BETWEEN ANNOUNCEMENT AND POLLING DAY

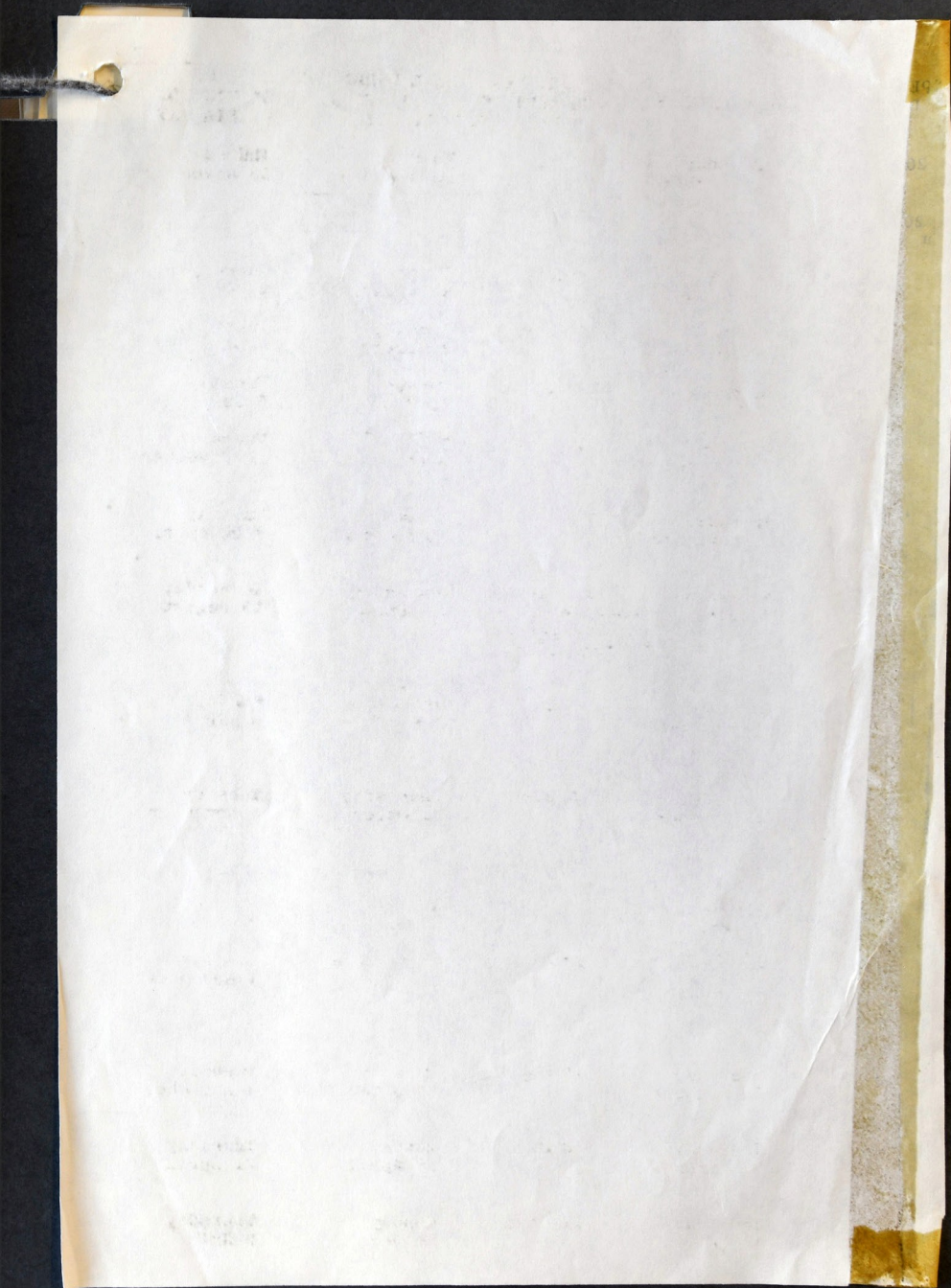
1922	27
1923	23
1924	20
1929	36
1931	22
1935	22
1945	47
1950	43
1951	36
1955	41
1959	30
1964	30
1966	31
1970	31
1974	21
1974	22
1979	35
1983	31





PERIOD BETWEEN DISSOLUTION (AND POLL	POLL DATE	PERIOD BETWEEN POLL AND MEETING OF NEW PARLIAMENT	DATE PARLIAMENT MET AFTER ELECTION	DATE OF OPENING OF PARLIAMENT
20 days	Wednesday 15 November	5 days	Monday 20 November	Thursday 23 November
20 days	Thursday 6 December	33 days	Tuesday 8 January 1924	Tuesday 15 January
20 days	Tuesday 29 October	4 days	Tuesday 2 December	Tuesday 9 December
20 days	Thursday 30 May	26 days	Tuesday 25 June	Tuesday 2 July
20 days	Tuesday 27 October	7 days	Tuesday 3 November	Tuesday 10 November
20 days	Thursday 14 November	12 days	Tuesday 26 November	Tuesday 3 December
25 days	Thursday 5 July	27 days (counting of votes extended by legislation)	Wednesday 1 August	Wednesday 15 August
20 days	Thursday 23 February	6 days	Wednesday 1 March	Monday 6 March
20 days	Thursday 25 October	6 days	Wednesday 31 October	Tuesday 6 November
20 days	Thursday 26 May	12 days	Tuesday 7 June	Thursday 9 June
20 days	Thursday 8 October	12 days	20 October	Tuesday 1 November
20 days	Thursday 15 October	12 days	Tuesday 27 October	Tuesday 3 November
21 days	Thursday 31 March	18 days	Monday 18 April	Thursday 21 April
20 days	Thursday 18 June	11 days	Monday 29 June	Thursday 2 July





PERIOD BETWEEN DISSOLUTION AND POLL	POLL DATE	PERIOD BETWEEN POLL AND MEETING OF NEW PARLIAMENT	DATE PARLIAMENT MET AFTER ELECTION	DATE OF OPENING OF PARLIAMENT
20 days	Thursday 28 February	6 days	Wednesday 6 March	Tuesday 12 March
20 days	Thursday 10 October	12 days	Tuesday 22 October	Tuesday 29 October
26 days	Thursday 3 May	6 days	Wednesday 9 May	Tuesday 15 May



YEAR	DATE OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISSOLUTION	PERIOD BETWEEN ANNOUNCEMENT AND DISSOLUTION	NEXT MEETING OF PARLIAMENT AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT	DISSOLVED DATE
1974	Thursday 7 February	1 day	House sitting	Friday 8 February
1974	Wednesday 18 September	2 days	Not until after the Election. House in recess	Friday 20 September
1979	Thursday 29 March	9 days	Same day	Saturday 7 April

YEAR	DATE OF AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF DISSOLUTION	PERIOD BETWEEN ANNOUNCEMENT AND DISSOLUTION	NEXT MEETING OF PARLIAMENT AFTER ANNOUNCEMENT	DISSOLVED DATE
1922	(Government resigns) Thursday 19 October Meeting at Carlton Club on 19 October	7 days	Not until after Election. House stood adjourned until 14 Nov when dissolved and announcement made.	26 Octo
1923	Tuesday 13 November (In the House)	3 days	House sitting	Friday 16 Novem
1924	Government Defeat Wednesday 9 October	None (same day)	House sitting	Wednesda 9 Octobe
1929	Wednesday 24 April (In the House)	16 days	House sitting	Friday 10 May
1931	Tuesday 6 October (Answer to PNQ in House)	? 2 days	House sitting	Wednesda 7 Oct
1935	Wednesday 23 October (In the House in debate)	2 days	House sitting	Friday 25 Octob
1945	Thursday 24 May	22 days (Special arrang- ement of War Cabinet approved by The King)	Tuesday 29 May (House stood adjourned for Whitsun)	Friday 15 June
1950	Wednesday 11 January (Statement from No.10-no broadcast)	23 days	Not until after Election as House stood Prorogued.	Friday 3 Februa
1951	Wednesday 19 September (broadcast)	16 days	Thursday 4 October House recalled by Speaker (House had stood adjourned to 16 October)	Friday 5 Oct
1955	Friday 15 April (broadcast)	21 days	19 April (after Easter recess)	6 May
1959	Tuesday 8 September Announced from 10 Downing Street	10 days	18 September House recalled by Speaker (House had stood adjourned to 22 October)	18 Sept
1964	Tuesday 15 September Announced from 10 Downing Street	10 days	Not until after Election. House in recess	Friday 25 Sep
1966	Monday 28 February Announced from 10 Downing Street	10 days	House sitting	Thursda 10 Mar
1970	Monday 18 May Announced from 10 Downing Street	11 days	Lords sitting Commons recalled on Tues 26 May	Friday 29 Ma