

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

General Election Timetable : Sunday 8 and Monday 9 May

Sunday 8 May

2300 Mr. Wolfson telephoned me to tell me that, subject to a night's reflections, the Prime Minister had decided to announce on the following day a General Election on 9 June.

Monday 9 May

CLOSED UNDER THE
FREEDOM OF INFORMATION
ACT 2000

I agreed that the State Visit of President Jayewardene should be cancelled and, subject to the Prime Minister's views and the advice of the Foreign Office, he should be invited to come in October instead.

9/5/83

0915

The Prime Minister called her Private Office together and started to discuss arrangements. She agreed to hold a Cabinet before her audience of The Queen and to send messages to the Leaders of the Opposition Parties and the Speaker as soon as possible after her audience. She decided the announcement should be made before 1430 if possible, ie before the House met. She authorised messages to be prepared to President Reagan (dealing with the effect on her attendance at the Williamsburg Summit) and Chancellor Kohl (dealing with Stuttgart). She also agreed that the Chancellor of the Exchequer should be authorised to tell the Governor. All these messages were to be transmitted after the audience. She agreed that the House should be dissolved without prorogation and that there should be no dissolution honours in advance of polling day. She authorised me to transmit messages to the Leader of the Opposition and the Leaders of the Alliance that they could seek access to the Head of the Civil Service about matters particularly connected with structure and machinery of government which they would wish to raise if returned to office; she also authorised me to tell the Leader of the Opposition that preparations for the Birthday Honours would go ahead, that if there were a change of government the list would be published and it would be made known that it was on the advice of the previous Prime Minister.

Between
1000-
1100

I telephoned the Clerk of the Privy Council, and the Permanent Secretary in the Chancellor's Office to give them advance warning for the preparation of proclamations and writs respectively. I confirmed with The Queen's Private Secretary the audience at 1230.

1000

The First Parliamentary Counsel came to 10 Downing Street at my request, when he was shown the timetable for dissolution and polling day and confirmed that it was in accordance with the Representation of the People Acts.

- 1100 The Prime Minister saw Sir Robert Armstrong. She asked him to arrange a Cabinet meeting on the following day to take outstanding business on local government finances and structure, Review Body Reports on salaries and trade union law reform.
- 1115- The Prime Minister held a Cabinet meeting (attended
1200 by deputies for those Cabinet Ministers who were not available) and told them of her plans for a General Election. She also warned them of the outstanding business to be taken on the following day.
- 1200 The Prime Minister approved the announcement and signed the letters to the Speaker, and the Leaders of the Opposition and of the Liberal Party. She asked the Chief Whip to deliver these when he received notification that the audience was over, and to inform the Leaders of the Minority Parties.
- 1220 The Prime Minister left for the Audience, returning at 1300.

F.R.B.

9.5.83

PRESS NOTICE

GENERAL ELECTION, JUNE 1983

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.

Parliament will be dissolved on Friday 13 May. The General Election will take place on Thursday 9 June. The new Parliament will be summoned on Wednesday 15 June, when the first business will be the election of the Speaker and the swearing-in of members, and the State Opening will be on Wednesday 22 June.

10 Downing Street
Whitehall SW1

9 May 1983