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# SECRET

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OD(SA)(82) 39th Meeting

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### CABINET

## DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

SUB-COMMITTEE ON THE SOUTH ATLANTIC AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

MINUTES of a Meeting held at 10 Downing Street on THURSDAY 20 MAY 1982 at 10.00 am

#### PRESENT

The Rt Hon Margaret Thatcher MP Prime Minister

The Rt Hon William Whitelaw MP Secretary of State for the Home Department

The Rt Hon John Nott MP Secretary of State for Defence The Rt Hon Francis Pym MP Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs

The Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General

## THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP Attorney General

Sir Antony Acland Foreign and Commonwealth Office Admiral of the Fleet Sir Terence Lewin Chief of the Defence Staff

Sir Ian Sinclair Foreign and Commonwealth Office

Sir Michael Palliser Cabinet Office

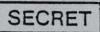
### SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong Mr R L Wade-Gery Mr R L L Facer Brigadier J A C G Eyre

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## 1. MILITARY ISSUES

THE CHIEF OF THE DEFENCE STAFF briefed the Sub-Committee on the latest military situation.

THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that, though the weather remained an uncertain factor, the Force Commander had not altered his view on the timing of military operations. The authorisation he had been given still stood.

The Sub-Committee -

Took note.

#### 2. DIPLOMATIC ISSUES

The Sub-Committee had before them a letter to the Prime Minister's Private Secretary from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's enclosing a draft paper to be tabled in Parliament which described the negotiations through the United Nations in New York and was entitled "The Falkland Islands - Negotiations for a Peaceful Settlement"; a minute of 20 May to the Prime Minister from the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary, on developments in New York and the latest initiative by the United Nations Secretary General, Senor Perez de Cuellar; telegrams nos. 783-4 and 789-94 from the British Representative at the United Nations, Sir Antony Parsons, covering the same developments in greater detail; and telegram no. 1823 from Her Majesty's Ambassador in Washington describing United States reactions.

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that there were considerable similarities between Britain's final proposals and those now put forward by the Secretary General. World opinion as well as some sections of domestic opinion would not understand if Britain seemed to be basing her case for further military measures on the differences between the two. It was therefore an important British interest not to appear to reject the Secretary General's proposals. It was equally important to frustrate Argentine delaying tactics, which might now be based on purporting to accept the proposals as a basis for negotiation.

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THE PRIME MINISTER, summing up the discussion, said that there could could be no question of holding up the military timetable. Secretary General's proposals were incomplete and obscure in several The British reaction to them should therefore be based on the recommendation by Sir Andrew Parsons in his telegram no. 793. It should be made clear that the proposals were not fully worked out; that they presented positive aspects as well as important differences from Britain's final offer; that they differed much more markedly from Argentina's latest position; that any purported Argentine willingness to consider them was therefore certain to be aimed only at procrastination; that exploring the proposals further was bound to take a considerable time; that Britain had made clear proposals with a clear deadline; and that any British military plans could not now be A suitably adapted version of the paper put forward by the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary's Private Secretary should be tabled in Parliament in advance of the debate due to be held later that day.

The Sub-Committee -

Invited the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary to be guided by the Prime Minister's summing up in tabling his paper in Parliament and in sending instructions to Sir Antony Parsons.

Cabinet Office

20 May 1982