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OD(82) 7th Meeting

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CABINET

DEFENCE AND OVERSEA POLICY COMMITTEE

MINUTES of a Meeting held in the
Prime Minister's Room, House of Commons
on TUESDAY 4 MAY 1982 at 8.15 pm

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 Lord Hailsham
Lord Chancellor

The Rt Hon Sir Geoffrey Howe QC MP
Chancellor of the Exchequer

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

The Rt Hon John Nott MP
Secretary of State for Defence

The Rt Hon John Biffen MP
Lord President of the Council

The Rt Hon Baroness Young
Lord Privy Seal

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

The Rt Hon Lord Cockfield
Secretary of State for Trade

THE FOLLOWING WERE ALSO PRESENT

The Rt Hon Sir Michael Havers QC MP
Attorney General

Admiral Sir Henry Leach
Chief of the Naval Staff

Sir Michael Palliser
Cabinet Office

SECRETARIAT

Sir Robert Armstrong
Mr R L Wade-Gery
Mr R L L Facer

SUBJECT

FALKLAND ISLANDS

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Previous Reference OD(82) 6th Meeting, Item 2

THE PRIME MINISTER informed the Committee of the damage to HMS Sheffield and the loss of a Sea Harrier aircraft in an attack that day on the airstrip at Goose Green.

THE DEFENCE SECRETARY briefed the Committee on other aspects of the military situation.

THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY said that the sinking of the Argentine cruiser Generale Belgrano had led to some loss of support for the British position from other members of the European Community, including France. There was a considerable risk that any widening of the conflict and further casualties would lead to widespread loss of international, including American support.

The Committee -

Took note.

Cabinet Office

6 May 1982