

MR. WHITMORE from Mr. Pattison

c.c. Duty Clerk

Papers

You will certainly need to see:-

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- ✓ (i) The CDS paper prepared for yesterday's Chequers meeting (to be returned from Chequers by hand of Janice);
 - ✓ (ii) The text of Haig's message;
 - ✓ (iii) The Santiago telegram which we discussed yesterday.

Today's arrangements

The Prime Minister leaves Chequers at 1 o'clock to return for the 2.30 meeting. The Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary and CDS will attend. ODSA has been summoned for 7 p.m. Defence and FCO have been informed of this. The Home Secretary has also been informed, as has Cecil Parkinson, and both are making arrangements to return to London. David Wright is informing Sir Robert Armstrong and the Secretariat. The Cabinet Office people have been advised to telephone the Duty Clerk in the late afternoon for final confirmation that the meeting is taking place, but the Home Secretary and the Paymaster General have been told to assume that it will happen.

Press

Brian Mower has confirmed that the Prime Minister is returning to London, and will be seeing colleagues in the course of the afternoon in preparation for a further meeting with Haig tomorrow. At present, Brian does not intend to come into the office today, but is expected to come early tomorrow to handle press enquiries arising out of Haig's visit.

Tomorrow's programme

Haig has said that he intends to arrive in London at 6.30 a.m. There are still some conflicting reports direct from Argentina

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suggesting that he may be having a further round of meetings before his departure. All those likely to be involved in discussions know of his planned arrival time, and of the slight question mark over it. The FCO have been primed to make contingency plans to provide a working lunch for Haig, hosted either by the Prime Minister or the Foreign Secretary. That apart, no other arrangements have been made for tomorrow, but I have suggested to FCO/MOD/Cabinet Office that there will be a need for an ODSA meeting at some point in the day to take the items originally scheduled for the lunchtime meeting at Chequers. I have suggested that this meeting is now most likely to take place in Downing Street late in the afternoon, after the talks with Mr. Haig are concluded.

Parliament

I told you yesterday that there had been contacts through the usual channels about the possible recall of Parliament. I also consulted the Prime Minister about Dame Judith Hart's approach, and she agreed that some formal response to Dame Judith was necessary. I therefore gave the Duty Clerk a message to telephone back to Dame Judith, which he duly did. The Opposition front bench had in mind the desirability of Parliament meeting on Tuesday or Wednesday, primarily for the purpose of allowing someone - presumably the Prime Minister - to make a statement, although the meeting would technically have to take place on an Adjournment Motion. I also told you that the Prime Minister had it in mind to hold out for a meeting on Thursday. (This was partly dictated by her belief that Mr. Foot still intended to go to Canada towards the end of the week.) In view of the news that Mr. Haig will be in London tomorrow, it seems to me that the Opposition will press that much harder for a meeting early in the week, almost certainly Tuesday. Although the Government will not be in a position to take a firm decision until the talks with Haig have taken place, I think it would be helpful to raise this with the Prime Minister and senior colleagues this afternoon with a view to deciding whether the Government still intend to hold off a meeting for as long as possible, or whether Ministers are now more or less resigned to a Tuesday or Wednesday meeting. If you can get a steer on this, I would like to know the outcome so that I can talk to Murdo Maclean about it.

11 April, 1982.