

CONFIDENTIAL

*Defence Budget*

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet, Thursday 17 June: Defence White Paper

Mr. Nott is anxious that there should not be a protracted discussion in Cabinet tomorrow about the pros and cons of the decision which you and he reached this morning to publish the Defence White Paper next Tuesday, 22 June and to have the Defence Debate the following week. He believes that the best prospect of avoiding such a discussion tomorrow would be for you, rather than him, to tell Cabinet what has been agreed.

If you are content to do this, you may like to raise the matter under Parliamentary Affairs and to say simply that you, the Defence Secretary, the Leader of the House and the Chief Whip have all considered the question of the publication of the Defence White Paper and that you have decided that it should appear on Tuesday 22 June and that the Defence Debate should take place on Wednesday 30 June and Thursday 1 July.

*AW.*

16 June 1982

CONFIDENTIAL

Defence Budget



Defence White Paper

DEFENCE WHITE PAPER

My rt hon Friend the Secretary of State for Defence, reflecting, I believe, the general wish on all sides in the House, has already said that the Defence White Paper - though substantially complete - would not be published until the crisis in the Falkland Islands was over. My rt hon Friend now hopes to publish the White Paper in the next few weeks.

---

SW

CONQUEROR

III