



10 DOWNING STREET

Mr Coles (r)

Mr NAA feels there are still
some issues on the Service of
Thanksgiving, such as the title
of the service, on which OUSA
should be consulted. He will
put a paper round at the weekend
for the meeting next Monday.

LM

1/1

John
I have told David
by phone to be
informed, given my
wish to confirm in
writing



Prime Minister

Content will arrangements for
St. Paul's service and for Guildhall
Luncheon?

2. You will note that a march through
the City is not envisaged. I understand
that the MOD and the Services feel that
this would not be appropriate.

A.S.C. 6/7

MO 5/21

TF
4/7

PRIME MINISTER

FALKLAND ISLANDS - SERVICE OF THANKSGIVING

In OD(SA) on 1st July we had some discussion of the proposed service of thanksgiving and remembrance. You informed the House of Commons on the same afternoon that the service would take place, and my officials are in touch with the Dean of St Paul's concerning its form. They are well aware of the points which have caused you concern.

2. The seating capacity for the service will be about 2,500 or slightly fewer if TV and radio facilities are provided. I believe that the emphasis should be on the attendance of those closely connected with the campaign. I would suggest that some 600 seats should be allocated to the next of kin of the British dead; and about 1000 to a group which, with strong emphasis on units and ships involved in the conflict, should represent the Services, the Merchant Navy (including the National Union of Seamen), the Dockyards, NAAFI and similar organisations, and the civilian ports and shipbuilders involved. In addition some 500 seats should be allocated to the Royal Party (20), the Cabinet (40), other representatives of the Government (30), opposition parties (50), other MPs (70), Ministry of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Home Civil Service with particular emphasis on those directly involved (190), and 100 representatives from other countries. This would leave about 400 seats available for the general public and I would suggest that these should be allocated by ballot.

This should
include
Cabinet Office.
A.S.C. 6/7



3. I would be grateful if colleagues would signify their agreement to these general proposals. If they are acceptable I suggest we should discuss briefly the way in which invitations should be extended to the other parties and MPs. Perhaps the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary could suggest a suitable list of representatives from other countries.

4. As regards other ceremonies I understand that the City authorities are considering whether the Lord Mayor might offer a buffet luncheon in Guildhall for about 1300 people, of whom as many as possible would be members of the Task Force and next of kin of the fallen. No Royal participation is envisaged, but I understand that there has been a suggestion that you, the Lord Mayor, and the Chief of the Defence Staff might conduct a "walk-about" among the guests following the luncheon.

5. I should like to encourage this idea. It would be a signal mark of appreciation of the achievements of the Task Force and the principles that they vindicated. At the same time it would be distinguishable from the ceremonies that have in the past marked victories gained in wars where our national survival has been at stake. I understand that it is the only ceremony which the City authorities are envisaging and that they have not suggested that there should be a march through the City.

Agreed vs.
6. I should be grateful for your early agreement and that of colleagues, both to enable planning to go forward and to anticipate possible leaks from within the City.

7. I am copying this minute to OD(SA) colleagues and to Sir Robert Armstrong.

Ministry of Defence
5th July 1982

J. E. Ridley
(draft approved by the Secretary of State and signed on his behalf.)