

Prime Minister.

I agree with Mr Coles. I don't think you
ask you now to read a lesson. We shall have
more problems with his career before we are finished,
and the less your personal participation in it the
better.

MR WHITMORE

Service of Thanksgiving

file
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MB

It would be much
more appropriate for
of civil
I felt to
read the lesson.

Sir Arthur Hockaday rang to say that he had had a
useful meeting with the Dean of St. Paul's and his
Precentor this afternoon.

It was now agreed that the title of the service would
be: "A Service of Thanksgiving for the liberation of the
Falkland Islands and in remembrance of the fallen".

if I do, - it would be misinterpreted and
leave a bad taste. No positions
in my
view!
MB

The Dean had agreed not to put the word "reconciliation"
in the title of the service but he envisaged a service divided
into three sections:-

- a) Thanksgiving
- b) Remembrance, ending with the Last Post and the Reveille
- c) Peace and reconciliation.

The Dean wanted the Order of Service to contain a heading
at the appropriate point to make clear that the last section
was devoted to peace and reconciliation. This section would
consist of Psalm 23, prayers for peace
and The Lord's Prayer. Sir Arthur Hockaday pointed
out that the prayers for peace would be led by Dr. Kenneth Greet.
He had recently published adverse comments on the Falklands
campaign in the Guardian but he has written a letter, I think
to the Dean, which Sir A. Hockaday has seen and which makes it
clear that he will participate in the service in his representative
capacity and will not use the occasion to propagate his personal
views. Sir Arthur believed he would behave responsibly.

/As to the Lord's

As to The Lord's Prayer, the idea that it would be said in Spanish as well as English has been abandoned. But the Dean is for the moment keeping open the idea that the Order of Service might contain a Spanish translation of The Lord's Prayer as well as an extract from the Pope's sermon in Coventry. However, the outline of the service will now be put to the various ecclesiastical authorities without these additions and whether they are added or not will depend on the reply received from Cardinal Hume.

why?

The Dean enquired whether the the Prime Minister would be willing to read a lesson. The suggestion was that she should read the First Lesson which will be Micah, Chapter 4, verses 1-4. Sir Arthur Hockaday pointed out that verse 3 reads:-

"And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

The plan is for the Second Lesson which will be Matthew, Chapter 5, verses 1-9, to be read by the Canon in Residence. Hockaday believed that if the Prime Minister wished to read this lesson instead, St. Paul's would accept this. They would particularly like a decision by the Prime Minister on this question early next week and I told Sir Arthur Hockaday that we would try to meet this deadline.

If the Prime Minister declines, it is possible that the Chief of the Defence Staff will be invited to read a lesson.

My own instinct^{is} that with all the uncertainties that remain about the service the Prime Minister would be well advised not to read a lesson.

on Civil flight.

It need - it would be wrong for me to do so.

A. J. C.