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C(86) 20

COPY NO 81

10 October 1986

CABINET

THE QUEEN'S SPEECHES ON THE PROROGATION AND OPENING OF PARLIAMENT

Memorandum by the Lord President of the Council

The attached drafts of The Queen's Speeches on the Prorogation of the present Session of Parliament and the Opening of the 1986-87 Session have been prepared by The Queen's Speeches and Future Legislation Committee (QL) on the basis of the texts suggested by Departments. The draft Opening Speech reflects the legislative programme approved by the Cabinet on 27 February 1986 and the changes to the programme which QL and the Cabinet itself have since agreed. Thus, the Bill to privatise the water industry has been deleted; a separate Local Government (Finance) Bill has been added to make changes to the rate support grant system; and a Bill has been added to implement the recommendations of the Nugee Report on the management of privately owned flats. If any further additions prove to be essential, we shall need to consider whether measures should be dropped from the programme to make room for them.

2. The passage on inward State Visits remains provisional for the time being while discussions continue with the Heads of State concerned about the timing of their visits.

3. Subject to any further decisions which might be required in the light of developments before the Speeches are delivered, I invite the Cabinet to approve the attached drafts.

Privy Council Office

10 October 1986

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THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE OPENING OF PARLIAMENT 1986

1. My Lords and members of the House of Commons

[I look forward with much pleasure to receiving His Majesty King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and His Majesty King Hassan of Morocco on State visits during the next twelve months.]

2. I also look forward to visiting Berlin in May during that city's 750th anniversary year and to being present on the occasion of the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in Canada.

3. My Government will continue to attach the highest importance to maintaining national security and preserving peace with freedom and justice. They will enhance the United Kingdom's own defences and play an active part in the Atlantic Alliance.

4. My Government will work for new agreements on arms control and disarmament. They will seek greater co-operation and trust between East and West and work for progress at the Vienna Review Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

5. My Government will hold the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Community until the end of this year. Within the Community they will work to promote enterprise and employment and to remove barriers to internal trade; for improvements in world trade rules; and for continuing reform of the Common Agricultural Policy.

6. My Government will honour their commitments to the people of the Falkland Islands while continuing to seek more normal relations with Argentina. They will discharge their obligations to the people of Hong Kong and will work closely with the Chinese Government to carry out the Sino-British Joint Declaration. They will stand by their commitment to the people of Gibraltar.

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7. My Government will continue to work with their partners in the European Community and with the Commonwealth for peaceful and fundamental change in South Africa. They will support Namibian independence. They will look for solutions to the problems of the Middle East. They will support attempts to achieve settlements in Afghanistan, in Cambodia, in Cyprus and in Central America.

8. My Government will make vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism and trafficking in drugs.

9. My Government will support the Commonwealth and play a constructive role at the United Nations. They will maintain a substantial aid programme, play their part in the relief of famine and other natural disasters and encourage investment in the developing countries.

10. Members of the House of Commons

Estimates for the Public Service will be laid before you.

11. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

My Government's firm monetary and fiscal policies will continue to restrain inflation and foster the conditions necessary for further sustained economic growth. Within that framework, my Government will continue to promote enterprise; the growth of employment and the education and training of young people.

12. My Government will maintain firm control of public expenditure, so that it may continue to fall as a proportion of the Nation's income and permit further reductions in the burden of taxation. Consistently with this, my Government will continue to seek better value for money in public spending, so that vital services may be further improved.

13. Action will be taken to further privatisation, both to improve economic efficiency and to encourage wider share ownership.

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14. Legislation will be introduced to improve the system for the supervision of banks.

15. A Bill will be brought forward to improve the working of criminal justice, to implement certain recommendations made by the Committee on Fraud Trials; and to make further provision for the confiscation of the proceeds of crime.

16. Measures will be proposed to promote further competition in order to secure greater efficiency in the provision of local authorities' services; and to improve the basis for the payment of rate support grant in England and Wales.

17. A Bill will be introduced to extend the rights of people living in privately owned flats in England and Wales.

18. A Bill will be introduced to facilitate the conservation and management of the Norfolk and Suffolk Broads.

19. Measures will be proposed to bring up to date the arrangements regulating oil and gas installations and operations.

20. Measures will be brought forward further to reform family law in England and Wales.

21. A Bill will be introduced to modify the system for the control of fire risks and to make further provision for safety at sports grounds.

22. For Scotland, Bills will be introduced to abolish domestic rates, to reform the enforcement of debts due under court orders, and to make various improvements to criminal justice.

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23. My Government will continue through the Anglo-Irish Agreement to develop closer cooperation with the Government of the Republic of Ireland. They will encourage elected representatives in Northern Ireland to search for an agreed basis for the return to a devolved administration. They will continue to encourage economic and industrial development. A Bill will be introduced to amend Northern Ireland legislation against terrorism.

24. Measures will be proposed to reform the administration of marine pilotage.

25. Legislation will again be before you to enable construction of a Channel Tunnel. A Bill will be introduced to authorise the construction of a third crossing of the Thames at Dartford.

26. Measures will be proposed to reform the law of copyright; to improve other aspects of the law relating to intellectual property and further to strengthen the law on consumer protection.

27. Other measures will be laid before you.

28. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may rest upon your counsels.

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THE QUEEN'S SPEECH ON THE PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT 1986

1. My Lords and members of the House of Commons

The Duke of Edinburgh and I were pleased to receive the State visits of His Highness the Amir of Qatar in November, their Majesties the King and Queen of Spain in April, and the President of the Federal Republic of Germany and Freifrau von Weizsaecker in July.

2. We recall with great pleasure the State Visit to Nepal followed by visits to New Zealand and Australia earlier this year, as well as the recent State Visit to the People's Republic of China and the visit to Hong Kong.

3. My Government have attached great importance to relations with countries in the Far East. This was marked by the Prime Minister's visit to the Republic of Korea in May and by visits here of the President of the Republic of Korea in April and the General Secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party of China in June.

4. My Government and the Chinese Government have made good progress in carrying out the Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong.

5. My Government have enhanced the United Kingdom's defences and played a full part in the Atlantic Alliance. My Government have worked vigorously for balanced and verifiable agreements on arms control in respect of nuclear, chemical and conventional weapons, keeping in close consultation with the United Kingdom's allies. They were active at the Stockholm Conference on Disarmament in Europe which reached agreement in September. They have continued to seek improved relations with the Soviet Union and the countries of Eastern Europe.

6. My Government have assumed the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of the European Community. My Government signed the Single European Act to amend the Treaty of Rome and legislation to give effect to it has been passed.

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7. My Government have worked with their partners in the European Community and with the Commonwealth to bring about peaceful and fundamental change in South Africa. They have supported efforts to restore the independence and non-aligned status of Afghanistan and Cambodia. My Government have honoured their commitments to the people of the Falkland Islands, while continuing to seek more normal relations with Argentina.

8. My Government welcomed the resolution adopted at the United Nations Special Session on Africa concerning the economic recovery and development of African countries. They have provided substantial emergency assistance to victims of famine in Africa, both directly and through the European Community.

9. My Government have worked hard for the launching of a new round of multilateral trade negotiations within the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade. They welcome this initiative believing that a successful outcome to the negotiations is vital in order to preserve and strengthen the world's open trading system.

10. My Government have made vigorous efforts to combat international terrorism and trafficking in drugs.

11. My Government have signed a treaty with the Government of France for a Channel Tunnel to be financed by private capital. Legislation has been introduced to enable the treaty to be ratified.

12. My Government and the Governments of the Cayman Islands and the United States of America have signed a treaty relating to mutual legal assistance in criminal matters. My Government have introduced measures for the better administration of the Turks and Caicos Islands.

13. Members of the House of Commons

I thank you for the provision which you have made for the honour and dignity of the Crown and for the Public Service.

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14. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

My Government's policies have been successful in reducing inflation to its lowest level for almost 20 years. The output of the nation continues to expand and the number of people in work continues to grow.

15. In order to give more help to the unemployed, my Government have through the Wages Act removed some outdated obstacles to the creation of new jobs and have expanded existing employment and training measures including the introduction of the national Restart programme for the long term unemployed and the expansion of the Community Programme and the Enterprise Allowance Scheme. The "Action for Jobs" information campaign has been introduced to ensure that employers, employees and unemployed people know what help is available to them.

16. My Government continue to attach the highest importance to the education and training of young people and to improving the links between school and work. The new two year Youth Training Scheme was launched successfully and the Technical and Vocational Education Initiative has been expanded to a nationwide programme offering the opportunity of participation to all those between 14 and 18 years of age at school.

17. My Government have taken additional initiatives to encourage enterprise and improve the performance of the economy. The basic rate of income tax has been further reduced.

18. Continuing my Government's programme of encouraging greater industrial efficiency and promoting wider share ownership, legislation has been enacted to provide for the setting up of new regulatory arrangements for the gas supply and airports industries and for the sale of shares in British Gas and British Airports Authority to the public. An Act was also passed to enable the Atomic Energy Authority to operate as a trading fund from 1 April 1986 with a capital structure and borrowing powers. The remaining warship yards of British Shipbuilders

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have been sold as have my Government's residual shares in Cable and Wireless. The National Bus Company has begun to sell its undertakings to the private sector including sales to managers and employees.

19. An Act has been passed to enable building societies to increase the range of services offered to the public and to provide a new statutory framework for their supervision.

20. Legislation has been passed to extend and reform the regulation of investment business. This will protect the interest of investors while encouraging the continued development of strong, efficient and competitive financial services.

21. Legislation has been enacted to improve the management of schools in England and Wales and to promote the professional effectiveness of teachers.

22. An Act has been passed giving further effect to my Government's policies towards agriculture and the countryside.

23. Legislation has been passed to encourage the sale of publicly owned flats to their tenants and the wider involvement of private business in the ownership and management of council housing, and to improve the planning system.

24. Legislation has been enacted to prohibit expenditure on party political publicity by local authorities and to require local authorities to make a rate by 1 April each year.

25. An Act has been passed to reform social security.

26. In Northern Ireland the drive to eradicate terrorism has been maintained. The security forces, assisted by the restraint and good sense shown by the broad majority of the people of Northern Ireland, have

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preserved public order. My Government has entered into an Agreement with the Government of the Republic of Ireland which it believes can benefit all the people of Northern Ireland and help achieve greater peace and stability.

27. For Scotland, measures have been passed to extend the rights of public sector tenants, facilitate the private ownership of public sector housing and improve the building control system, and to improve legal aid arrangements.

28. Further progress has been made in the consolidation of statute law. Legislation has been passed for England and Wales to set fair time limits for cases involving latent damage; provision has been made to settle conflicts of law relating to child abduction within the United Kingdom, and to reform the law of land registration and the administration of funds by the Public Trustee and other authorities.

29. An Act has been passed to enable the courts in England and Wales to confiscate the proceeds of drug trafficking, and to penalise those who assist traffickers to retain the benefit of such proceeds.

30. An Act has been passed to reform the law relating to public order.

31. Legislation has been enacted to establish improved arrangements for the protection of animals used for experimental and other scientific purposes.

32. An Act has been passed to modify and extend the management structure of salmon fisheries in Scotland and to introduce further measures to prevent illegal fishing in Great Britain.

33. Proposals have been made to extend the accountability of local authorities and for other reforms in the finance of local government.

34. My Lords and Members of the House of Commons

I pray that the blessing of Almighty God may attend you.