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**SECRET**

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C.M. (50)

26th Conclusions

**CABINET 26 (50)**

*CONCLUSIONS of a Meeting of the Cabinet held at 10 Downing Street, S.W. 1, on Thursday, 27th April, 1950, at 10 a.m.*

**Present :**

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| The Right Hon. C. R. ATTLEE, M.P., Prime Minister ( <i>in the Chair</i> ).  |  |
| The Right Hon. HERBERT MORRISON, M.P., Lord President of the Council.       | The Right Hon. Sir STAFFORD CRIPPS, K.C., M.P., Chancellor of the Exchequer.             |
| The Right Hon. HUGH DALTON, M.P., Minister of Town and Country Planning.    | The Right Hon. VISCOUNT ALEXANDER OF HILLSBOROUGH, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster. |
| The Right Hon. VISCOUNT JOWITT, Lord Chancellor.                            | The Right Hon. J. CHUTER EDE, M.P., Secretary of State for the Home Department.          |
| The Right Hon. G. A. ISAACS, M.P., Minister of Labour and National Service. | The Right Hon. ANEURIN BEVAN, M.P., Minister of Health.                                  |
| The Right Hon. T. WILLIAMS, M.P., Minister of Agriculture and Fisheries.    | The Right Hon. GEORGE TOMLINSON, M.P., Minister of Education.                            |
| The Right Hon. J. H. WILSON, M.P., President of the Board of Trade.         | The Right Hon. JAMES GRIFFITHS, M.P., Secretary of State for the Colonies.               |
| The Right Hon. HECTOR McNEIL, M.P., Secretary of State for Scotland.        | The Right Hon. P. C. GORDON-WALKER, M.P., Secretary of State for Commonwealth Relations. |

**The following were also present :**

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| The Right Hon. JOHN STRACHEY, M.P., Secretary of State for War ( <i>Item 4</i> ).               | The Right Hon. P. J. NOEL-BAKER, Minister of Fuel and Power ( <i>Item 8</i> ). |
| The Right Hon. ALFRED BARNES, M.P., Minister of Transport ( <i>Items 4 and 8</i> ).             | The Right Hon. GEORGE STRAUSS, M.P., Minister of Supply ( <i>Item 8</i> ).     |
| The Right Hon. H. T. N. GAITSKELL, Minister of State for Economic Affairs ( <i>Items 7-8</i> ). | The Right Hon. MAURICE WEBB, M.P., Minister of Food ( <i>Items 3 and 7</i> ).  |
| The Right Hon. LORD PAKENHAM, Minister of Civil Aviation, ( <i>Item 8</i> ).                    | The Hon K. G. YOUNGER, M.P., Minister of State ( <i>Items 5-6</i> ).           |
| The Right Hon. Sir HARTLEY SHAW-CROSS, K.C., M.P., Attorney-General ( <i>Items 4-5</i> ).       | The Right Hon. JOHN WHEATLEY, K.C., M.P., Lord Advocate, ( <i>Item 5</i> ).    |

The Right Hon. WILLIAM WHITELEY, M.P., Parliamentary Secretary, Treasury (*Items 1-3*).

**Secretariat :**

Sir NORMAN BROOK.  
Mr. A. JOHNSTON.

anxiety in their earlier discussion on 3rd April of the proposals in the original memorandum (C.P. (50) 42); and he was satisfied that these raised no difficulties which could not be met in the course of the proposed negotiations with the United States authorities.

In discussion Ministers agreed that this further memorandum (C.P. (50) 68) cleared up most of the doubts which had been expressed in their earlier discussion. They still thought it undesirable, however, that members of United States Forces in this country should be left permanently in a more favoured position, as regards criminal proceedings, than members of the Forces of other Commonwealth countries; and they expressed the hope that it would eventually be possible to put Commonwealth Forces on the same footing in this respect as United States Forces. They agreed, however, that the first step was to explore the possibility of securing some modification of the existing agreement with the United States Government.

The Cabinet—

Authorised the Foreign Secretary to enter into negotiations with the United States Government with a view to securing their agreement to an arrangement on the lines set out in paragraph 4 (d) of C.P. (50) 42.

**Jordan and Israel.**

(Previous Reference: C.M. (50) 25th Conclusions, Minute 2.)

6. *The Minister of State* said that the United States Government had now expressed their views on the declarations regarding the union of Arab Palestine with Jordan which had been proposed in C.P. (50) 78 and approved by the Cabinet on 25th April. They raised no objection to the proposed declaration welcoming the union of Arab Palestine with Jordan: they made no comment on the proposal to accord *de jure* recognition to Israel: but they preferred that the United Kingdom Government should not make their proposed declaration reaffirming their desire for peace in the Middle East. Their reason for suggesting that this last general declaration should not be made at the present time was that they hoped that, in the course of the current discussions on foreign policy between representatives of the United Kingdom, the United States and France, it might be agreed that a joint declaration on the Middle East, in much stronger terms, should be made on behalf of all three Governments. In these circumstances the Minister of State proposed that the statement which he was to make that day, in answer to a Private Notice Question in the House of Commons, should be limited to the matters covered in paragraphs 18 (1) and (2) of C.P. (50) 78.

The Cabinet—

Agreed that, in the circumstances described by the Minister of State, the proposed statement on Jordan and Israel should not include any general declaration reaffirming the desire of the United Kingdom Government for peace in the Middle East.

**Meals in Establishments Order.**

7. The Cabinet considered a memorandum by the Minister of Food (C.P. (50) 72) recommending the revocation of the Meals in Establishments Order, which restricted the amount of food that might be served, and limited the charge that might be made, for meals in restaurants.

The Cabinet were reminded that the Production Committee and the Economic Policy Committee had both concluded, in June and November of 1949, that although there was a strong practical case for revoking this Order it should be retained on political grounds (P.C. (49) 15th Meeting, Minute 2 and E.P.C. (49) 43rd Meeting, Minute 1). There could be no doubt that the revocation of the Order would be advantageous to the tourist trade; and the only question