

SECOND DAY, SATURDAY 27 FEBRUARY: FOURTH SESSION, IN THE ARGENTINE MISSION AT 1530

1. Mr Luce opened the final session by saying that there should be no misunderstanding about what all those attending the talks should say on their return home. For example, while he was well aware of the Argentine position on sovereignty, he would have no option but to reaffirm in public that Britain had no doubt about her sovereignty over the Falklands. We were firmly committed to acting only in accordance with the wishes of the Islanders and there could be no getting away from that principle. If asked about the substance of the talks he would naturally say that the discussions were confidential but that all sides wished to solve the dispute by peaceful means. Sr Ros agreed that all concerned needed to be very careful what they said at home. For his part he would say that the Argentine side had presented a proposal to expedite the work towards a peaceful solution to the sovereignty dispute and that the proposal was subject to final answer by HMG in the near future.

2. Mr Cheek asked Sr Ros whether there was anything which the Councillors should avoid mentioning. Sr Ortiz de Rozas said only that it would be damaging if any party said something that had not been said elsewhere. The Argentines would not reveal details of their proposal because of Mr Luce's obligations to his Ministerial colleagues. There would be no mention of the detail of a 'Negotiating Commission'. In return, the Argentines would expect there to be no rejection of their claim to sovereignty. Mr Blake found the discussion very helpful. He thought that most aspects had been covered quite satisfactorily, now that he and Mr Cheek knew what

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the Ministers intended to say. He was sure that he could stay within the parameters laid down. Mr Williams was sure that both sides would be asked what substance had been discussed. Would it be possible to say simply that the meeting had been to discuss procedures only? Sr Ros felt that this might give the impression that the talks had again been entirely unprofitable for the Argentines and he would prefer that this should not be said.

3. Agreement was then quickly reached on the final text annex C,D of an informal working paper and a communiqué.

4. The talks ended at 1700.

South America Department
Foreign and Commonwealth Office

2 March 1982