

(55) PA
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C O N F I D E N T I A L

H of C De* - we said reaction wd. depend upon Heath's

Mr Heathcote 4/2

HMA This still to be checked
to SAMD 4/2

Registry:
Pl. copy to
SAMD,
K PA MHW

FALKLAND ISLANDS, MFA ATTITUDES

1. In the course of a farewell lunch yesterday with Sr. Richard Forrester of the Malvinas Department (who leaves shortly on a posting to Warsaw), H of C and I quizzed him about the origins of the new impetus which seemed to be discernible in Argentine policy towards the Falklands. Sr Forrester would not accept any suggestion that the main source of pressure came from the navy. He said that there were proponents of strong-arm tactics - which I took to mean occupat~~ion~~ by force - in all branches of the service. They also existed in the MFA itself, and although in that quarter they were definitely in a minority they were not insignificant and he himself had had many strong arguments with them on the subject.

2. He also asked us what we thought the attitude of the British Government would be if Argentina ~~were~~ to resort to more forceful methods. He declined to be specific about what he had in mind, but it was interesting that he should even have asked such a question, which he has never done before in conversation with me (we of course did not give him any specific reply).*

M Hickson

4 February 1982

M Hickson

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