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F.I. [Falkland Islands]

PACKED MEETING

BUCK

Most disturbing and most worrying.

Peter Best if you ask questions of me.

Cries of 'No'

Peter gives history of South Georgia xxxxxxxx [?intervention]

NOTT

Ships have been at sea for some  
time but can't say whether nuclear  
submarines or how many are at sea  
AS IT TURNS OUT IN RETROSPECT  
WE SHOULD HAVE SENT THEM EARLIER  
21 DAYS STEAMING  
AT beginning of the week we knew  
fleet was on exercise.

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TASK FORCE

HERMES  
INVINCIBLE  
FEARLESS

3 or 4 days notice  
OTHER SHIPS AT SEA FOR  
A LONGER PERIOD

MONEY HAS NEVER INTERVENED  
INTELLIGENCE WAS GOOD

M-Hyslop

1. Are we at war?
2. Why did Ministers in HofC mislead the House?
3. Why was he in Israel?

P.C. what was first question?

1. NO OBLIGATION TO DECLARE WAR.  
WE ARE NOT AT WAR
2. We never said we could defend the Falklands successfully
3. [gap in text]

Bonsor

Time will come when we will  
want to go into much more detail.

1. Our forces mt [?must] be used
2. Must re-possess

P.C. We will re-possess

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KERSHAW

1. ?Restore military situation
2. Tale still unfolding  
There have been ?talks of resignations -  
not politically possible  
- substl [?substantial] applause

WALTERS

Wonderful respect for P.C.  
Could there be an inquiry into  
breakdown of communication  
Governor *?back*  
Marines back  
Endurance

GRIFFITHS

Best loyalty we can show is  
frankness  
Credibility of Conservative Govt here -  
APPLAUSE  
How this will affect our Party  
What has happened is exceedingly damaging  
All depends on getting things RIGHT  
and QUICKLY

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Ask for undertaking our Hunter Killer  
Submarines can destroy Argentine Fleet  
Use S.A. *[South Africa]* & Chile

P.C.  
NOTT

Accept political situation for our Party is  
bad.  
GEOGRAPHY IS DIFFICULT  
Yes Hunter Submarines cannot give details

HOGG

MUST RECOVER SOVEREIGNTY  
Unless we do Party will not  
hold together

NOTT

We are preparing to go to *?sea*

WALL

Falklands has been an embarrassment  
to the F.O.  
*?Make* a Blockade

N. If necessary we will.

*[page 5 begins]*

P.C. Have never met anyone in F.O. who wants  
to get rid of Falklands

CARLISLE

Easy to have wisdom of hindsight  
but *?free* ourselves of it  
9.55) How could H.A. *[Humphrey Atkins]* possibly  
8.43) have been briefed as he was  
Leader of Hse *[House of Commons]* at 2.30  
PROLONGED CHEERS  
How could even an office boy at the F.O.  
say this

P.C. Misunderstanding

CORMACK

?Only thing

BRAINE

Credibility of Govt is in suspense  
DAILY BROADCASTS FROM ARGENTINA  
THAT THEY WOULD INVADE  
Letters from Islanders passed on by Brazil  
in January & February  
Something really wrong with the F.O.  
Treat Party as adult

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P.C. In February talks in N.York  
No indication till beginning of ?*March*  
about ?*impatience* No intelligence that I  
know of to suggest early invasion  
In hindsight I wish intelligence had been  
better

Viggers

N.A.T.O. ?*concentratn* - should think  
of elsewhere. Please review defence  
policy

NOTT

Conventional Navy 1/2 Billion more than  
when we took office IN REAL TERMS.  
Higher share of Defence Budget to Navy  
was than when we took office  
Support side of Navy was too ???? still  
2000 million on torpedoes  
Shd "use some of them"  
?Rather tell we have done to put up the  
[xxxxx] at of ?*men/sea?* capability than any  
[xxxxx] - in 1982 [xx] [xx]  
?both U.S.S.R. & USA

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V.S.

Trubenzee [sic] [*Sir William van Straubenzee*]

Posture of Opposition will change once our  
ships get there  
As the force gets there [xx] as  
diplomatic activity proceeds.

?& not ?less the men at the head of  
the Dept concerned.  
Some cheers

STOKES

Working men appalled at what  
has happened.  
Put it right.  
The smell of appeasement about the  
F.O. at present.

FARR

Lackadaisical way the Govt has  
approached Falklands  
Why announce withdrawal of Endurance  
Get Argentina out  
at [xxxx] protect them  
Implement Shackleton

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PEYTON

Yesterday's statement  
VERY ODD  
Miserable Day. DON'T FOLLOW  
THE SI[xxxx] WAY  
I[xxxx] Suez. ?*Vigour* at start  
all the is dissatisfied [sic]  
Agrees with Enoch abt the P.M. metal

BOTTOMLEY

?*Su*[xxxxxx]

MATES

No simple solutions  
DISTANCE  
CYPRUS 1974 - SURPRISE  
NO ?*NONSENSE* FROM ARGENTINIANS

BENDALL

Different to Suez  
We are not aggressors

EGGAR

Critics are unreasonable  
talk of resignations very damaging  
be more [xxxxxx]  
Resignations give great [xxx]  
to enemies at home & abroad  
Repossession is *IMPERATIVE*

MARLOW

Real criticism  
Could mobilise whole B.A.O.R.  
in 12 hours  
Argentina could attack at any time  
We could not have kept  
a fleet there

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But repossess [xx] [xxxx]  
When will ?*not* be able to start ?*replanting*  
of islands

MACMILLAN

Don't give any support to the  
critics of the Govt  
We must show a greater strength of  
will than we have at the moment.  
This is what happens if vigilance is  
relaxed.  
Bring this to a successful conclusion.

RATHBONE

Hideously embarrassing 2 days  
Now ?*impetuous* decision  
?*But* ?*leave* ourselves with party  
political facts.  
P.C. to obtain support overseas  
Reagan not to sell arms to Argentina

P.C. Yes

We will do all we can.

WALKER

They should resign.

*[page 10 begins]*

What about frigate in Caribbean

N. Not the right ship  
14 days steaming time.

HIGGINS

Don't ?go/ give ?bad ?over Owen  
?Best P.C. & J.N.  
What are we going to do in U.N.  
about sanctions

P.C. Security Council has adjourned  
Argentine Foreign Minister is going there  
Not yet resolution though

Mawhinney

Communications were awful  
3 radios did not [xxx]  
Why did we not improve the communications?

HAMPSON

Act decisively.

COLVIN

Don't talk tough and act weakly  
We must be tough now. World  
opinion with us & the country  
NO RESIGNATIONS NOW

WARREN

Why no satellite [xxxxx] system  
Why did we sell arms to Argentina  
Are we still sending spares

CLARK

Intelligence failures in Argentina  
To stage an operation of this magnitude

*[page 11 begins]*

Who was supposed to transmit intelligence to  
us or even newspaper cuttings

NOTT

Intelligence Services [xxx] reports  
OBTAINED  
ANALYSED  
USED  
Only knew of invasion a few hours before  
I want satellites, but we have no money  
Want it more on ship - but now with  
hindsight

Spare parts to Argentina - Warren

NOTT

Will supply nothing more to Argentina.

NORMANTON

With what European partners did Carrington discuss this?

BODY

Has FCO clear made it clear that  
the *?sonty* is ours - [xxx] [xxxx]  
we negotiate

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GOODHART

Bad day for us.  
Security Council Debate will go wrong.  
We ought to be in a State of War with  
Argentina. The attack was an act of war.

EMERY

L[xx] at success all P.C. has had.  
Resume diplomatic offensive *?everywhere*.  
IF WE SEND THE FLEET OUT IT MEANS WAR.

FAIRBARN

SILKIN - must not allow them to  
take advantage.  
When can we expect the F.Is will be  
ours again.

LORD ONSLOW

SINK THE WHOLE FLEET.

AITKEN

DECLARE WAR AS FLEETS SAILS

LLOYD

COMMUNICATIONS.  
LIST OF MISSILES AVAILABLE TO  
ARGENTINE NAVY - JAMES SHIPS  
COULD NOT THESE WIPE US OUT.  
SOVEREIGNTY WAS NEGOTIABLE - WHY THE HELL  
WHERE WE NEGOTIATING

THORNE

COMMUNICATIONS

TAYLOR

UNITE TOGETHER [xx]  
QUICK ACTION  
DECLARE WAR DON'T  
DO SHACKLETON DON'T TREAT THEM WITH  
CONTEMPT

LORD JAMES [DOUGLAS-HAMILTON]

MAKE TASK FORCE STRONG

N. What we are doing is */in* the *?month* for the Argentinians

P.C. Up to lawyers. Difficult to declare war.  
LEGAL DIFFICULTIES