

Argentina

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP (DETAILED VERSION) : 0700 HRS, 24 MAY

UN(a) Security Council Debate

UKMIS New York
telno.825)

1. The Security Council resumed its debate at 1500Z on 23 May. There were 13 speakers: France, Poland, Honduras, Nicaragua, New Zealand, Equatorial Guinea, Paraguay, Colombia, El Salvador, Belgium, Indonesia, Peru and Panama (again). Sir Anthony Parsons spoke in right of reply to Panama. The statements by New Zealand and Belgium were excellent, but France was awful. Apart from Nicaragua, the Central Americas were strikingly moderate and Paraguay and Colombia were also better than might have been expected. Peru was strongly pro-Argentine, and said that its latest initiative was still alive. The Panamanian Foreign Minister was again intolerably offensive, and Sir Anthony has suggested consideration of an approach to the President of Panama. The Council is to meet again at 1430Z today.

(b) Draft Resolution?

UKMIS New York
telno. 826)

2. The Irish Ambassador expects the Panamanians to table a draft Resolution today.

(c) Sir A Parsons' Assessment

UKMIS New York
telno. 827)

3. The elastic of our support, even from our close friends (with the exception of the old Commonwealth), is stretching very thin; not simply because of natural UN pacifism and a desire to see the UN play a part in stopping the fighting and bringing about a peaceful solution, but more seriously a view is developing (exploited by the Argentines) that the crisis is bringing about a kind of cultural confrontation between Latin America and Western Europe/North America. If we have to veto a ceasefire resolution and are thereafter dragged into the General Assembly, we are going to be very isolated indeed.

(d) Securing Speakers Favourable to our Cause

UKMIS New York
telno. 828)

4. Earlier yesterday we had conducted a lobbying exercise in certain European and Third World capitals to encourage governments to speak in the debate. A similar exercise was conducted in London with many Ambassadors of the Ten.

The Pope's Message

FCO telno. 242 to Bonn)

Minute: (Mr Bullard)

FCO telno. 18 to Holy See)

FCO telno. 153 to UKREP Brussels)

5. The Prime Minister's reply to the Pope's message has been sent by telex to the Vatican and our Ambassador to the Holy See has been instructed to deliver a confirmatory copy. The reply stresses that aggression must not be allowed to succeed and that the conflict could be ended if Argentina complied with SCR 502.. Buenos Aires Radio broadcasted the text of President Galtieri's reply to the Pope: 'We listen with Christian humbleness to Your call for peace, understanding and prudence. Our people and our Government have made all possible efforts to avoid a military confrontation and bloodshed'.
.....'

US Attitude

6. Secretary of State Haig saw Sir Nicholas Henderson privately on 22 May. He said that the US Government is increasingly concerned at the consequences for US interests in the continuing battle over the Falkland Islands and that the Americans believe that thought should be given by both Washington and London at a very early date to a way of bringing an end to the conflict that will in some way prevent a hostage to fortune for the future. This possible shift in US attitude is echoed in yesterday's 'New York Times' editorial.

Uruguay

7. The Uruguayan Foreign Minister summoned our Ambassador yesterday to deliver a stiff reply to our earlier Note on the 12-mile limit. The Uruguayans are being sensitive over our reference to the River Plate 'estuary' as opposed to 'river'. The Minister said that he would be leaving for Washington, not New York, on Tuesday and that there was likely to be a further meeting with regard to the Rio Treaty on Thursday.

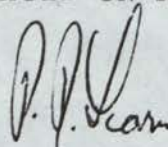
Comment

8. Although a Resolution calling for a ceasefire only still seems unlikely to command sufficient support, pressures are developing for action to halt the conflict through a mutual withdrawal and reversion to the idea of an interim UN or other presence to hold the ring while a negotiated settlement is pursued. As the fighting develops, so the solidity of our support is shifting. A further meeting of Rio Treaty States may take place later this week.

9. The underlying Western concerns, put clearly by Mr Haig (and probably shared by many in Europe), is that a military defeat for Argentina will make the sovereignty issue harder to resolve, will lead to continuing tension in the region, will inflict lasting damage on Western relations with Latin America and will provide openings for the spread of Soviet influence.

10. Action for consideration today, arising from overnight developments, is whether:-

- (a) a message might be sent to Mr Haig to stiffen his resolve;
- (b) a message should be sent to the Uruguayan Foreign Minister (Montevideo telegram No.360);
- (c) whether we should take up with the Panamanian Government the offensive comments of their UN Representative.



P R Fearn
Emergency Unit

24 May 1982

Washington
elno.1869)

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York telno.
30)

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UN

1. Yesterday's session of the Security Council debate failed to give rise to a draft Resolution. The debate will resume at 1430Z today.

Military Action

2. A frigate was seriously damaged and six Argentine aircraft were shot down in further attacks against Task Force ships in San Carlos waters. In a separate incident, Sea Harriers shot down one Argentine helicopter and forced down another in flames. A third was damaged.

The Pope's Message

3. The Prime Minister has sent a reply to the Pope. It makes clear that a ceasefire must be accompanied by Argentine withdrawal. Argentine Radio has broadcast the text of President Galtieri's reply to the Pope.

24 May 1982

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