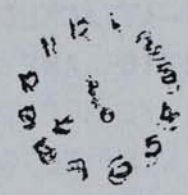


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TO IMMEDIATE F C O
TELEGRAM NUMBER 634 OF 3 MAY 1982
AND TO C O I.
INFO IMMEDIATE WASHINGTON.

FOR NEWS DEPT.

SECRETARY OF STATE'S PRESS CONFERENCE.

1. FOLLOWING IS TRANSCRIPT OF THE PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY MR PYM AT THE UNITED NATIONS AT 1330Z ON 3 MAY.

BEGINS

FOLLOWING MY VISIT TO WASHINGTON YESTERDAY AND THE DISCUSSIONS I HAD WITH MR HAIG, BOTH IN THE MORNING AND IN THE AFTERNOON, I CAME HERE AND LAST NIGHT, AS YOU KNOW, HAD TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL. WE EXPLORED VARIOUS IDEAS AS TO HOW THE UNITED NATIONS MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER IN THE PRESENT DISPUTE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC. I HAVE SEEN THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL THIS MORNING AND I HAVE TALKED WITH HIM ON THE SAME ISSUE AND TAKEN HIS MIND ABOUT HOW HE VIEWS THE POSITION AT THE PRESENT TIME. THE SITUATION IS RATHER DIFFICULT BECAUSE THE ARGENTINES HAVE UNLAWFULLY INVADED THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND ARE AT THE MOMENT IN POSSESSION OF THEM. THEY ARE IN BREACH OF SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502 AND THE FIRST BRITISH INTEREST, AS I BELIEVE IT IS A UNITED NATIONS INTEREST - IT AFFECTS ALL COUNTRIES ALL ROUND THE WORLD - IS TO SEE THAT THAT WITHDRAWAL THAT IS REQUIRED TAKES PLACE. SO THAT, IN THE LONGER TERM, WE CAN RETURN TO NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE STATUS OF THE ISLANDS. WE HAVE HAD NO DOUBT AND NEVER HAVE HAD ABOUT OUR TITLE; BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS TAKEN THE POSITION THAT WE ARE ACTING, AS IT WERE, AS TRUSTEES FOR THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND WE HAVE ALWAYS RESPECTED THEIR WISHES ON THE UNITED NATIONS PRINCIPLE OF SELF-DETERMINATION. THAT HAS NOT BEEN THE ARGENTINE POSITION SINCE THEY INVADED THE ISLANDS UNLAWFULLY A MONTH AGO. THEY WISH TO PRE-JUDGE THE OUTCOME OF THOSE NEGOTIATIONS AND OF COURSE THAT IS A NON-NEGOTIABLE POSITION SO FAR AS THE BRITISH ARE CONCERNED. OUR STRATEGY ALL ALONG HAS BEEN TO MAINTAIN PRESSURE ON THE ARGENTINES, DIPLOMATIC, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY, AND WE DECLARED SEVERAL DAYS AGO THE TOTAL EXCLUSION

MILITARY, AND WE DECLARED SEVERAL DAYS AGO THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE WHICH WE ARE NOW GOING TO PROTECT. YESTERDAY THERE WAS A VERY REAL THREAT TO THAT ZONE POSED BY A CRUISER. THERE WAS ALSO AN ATTACK ON A HELICOPTER FROM TWO SHIPS WHICH WERE IMMEDIATELY COUNTER-ATTACKED BY BRITISH FORCES. I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THE BRITISH ARE NOT UNDERTAKING THESE MILITARY ENGAGEMENTS BY CHOICE. WE ARE THERE TO DEFEND BRITISH SOIL AND BRITISH PEOPLE AND WE WISH TO GO BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE AT WHICH WE WERE SITTING VERY PROPERLY WITH ARGENTINA BEFORE ALL THIS BEGAN. I THINK THAT THE PRESSURE, THE BUILD-UP OF MILITARY PRESSURE WHICH HAS TAKEN PLACE, MUST HAVE AN EFFECT AND I HOPE THAT VERY SOON THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT WILL REALISE THAT THE RIGHT THING TO DO IS TO FULFIL THE OBLIGATIONS IMPOSED UPON THEM MANDATORILY BY THE UNITED NATIONS AND WITHDRAW, AND GET BACK TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE WITH AN OPEN MIND.

Q: RICHARD HOTTELET, CBS NEWS:

I WONDER IF YOU CAN TELL US SOMETHING MORE ABOUT YOUR EXPLORATION WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL AS TO THE WAYS IN WHICH THE UN MIGHT BE HELPFUL.

A: NOT SPECIFICALLY. I PUT OUR POSITION AND THE ELEMENTS IN THE SITUATION THAT ARE NOT FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW NEGOTIABLE: THAT IS TO SAY THE ULTIMATE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY AS SEEN BY THE ARGENTINES, AND THE QUESTION OF WITHDRAWAL. THE WAY TO BRING PEACE TO THE SOUTH ATLANTIC IS FOR THOSE TWO THINGS TO HAPPEN AND IT SEEMED TO ME THAT THERE IS A UNITED NATIONS INTEREST IN ENSURING THAT THAT DOES HAPPEN. BUT VARIOUS IDEAS HAVE BEEN PUT UP BY MR PEREZ DE CUELLAR LAST NIGHT, VARIOUS IDEAS PUT UP BY MR HAIG. AND I TALKED WITH THE PRESIDENT SQUARE BRACKETS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SQUARE BRACKETS THIS MORNING. I CAN'T BE SPECIFIC ABOUT THEM. WE ARE GOING TO KEEP IN CLOSE TOUCH BECAUSE IT MAY BE THAT A SITUATION WILL DEVELOP WHERE THE UNITED NATIONS MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP. AND I WANT TO MAKE IT QUITE CLEAR THAT I'M NOT CLOSING THE DOOR TO ANY DIPLOMATIC OPTION IN MY VISIT HERE. BUT THE FACT OF THE MATTER IS THAT, AS THE SECRETARY GENERAL INDICATED LAST NIGHT AFTER OUR TALKS, THERE ARE NO PARTICULARLY SPECIFIC IDEAS AT THE MOMENT; BUT A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS AND IDEAS HE DID PUT FORWARD, WHICH OF COURSE I WILL THINK ABOUT, AND I SHARED WITH HIM SOME OF THE POSSIBILITIES AS I VIEWED THEM. SO THERE'S NOTHING SPECIFIC THAT I CAN TELL YOU ABOUT THAT; BUT THE EXPLORATION VERY THOROUGHLY AND CAREFULLY OF THE POSSIBILITIES WAS A VERY USEFUL DISCUSSION FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW.

Q: TREVOR MCDONALD, ITN, LONDON:

YOU HAVE EXPLAINED BRITISH STRATEGY AS THE SORT OF POLICY WHERE THE DIPLOMATIC EFFECT IS BACKED UP BY THE FORCE OF THE BRITISH NAVAL TASK FORCE. BUT WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED IS THAT EVERY ESCALATION OF THIS ACTION SEEMS TO BE A DIPLOMATIC

NAVAL TASK FORCE. BUT WHAT SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED IS THAT EVERY ESCALATION OF THIS ACTION SEEMS TO BE A DIPLOMATIC PARALLEL GOING ON. WHAT HAPPENS IF ARGENTINA DOES NOT RESPOND TO THIS PRESSURE? ISN'T THERE A DANGER THAT THE MAIN INSTRUMENT OF OUR POLICY IS BECOMING A MILITARY OPTION AND NOT THE DIPLOMATIC ONE?

A: I'M CERTAINLY NOT CLOSING THE DOOR TO ANY DIPLOMATIC ACTION. IT'S REALLY UP TO THE ARGENTINES TO FULFIL THE UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION AND I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THE UNITED NATIONS THE SECURITY COUNCIL IN PARTICULAR, BUT ALL THE UNITED NATIONS - HAS AN INTEREST IN SEEING THAT THEY DO. THEY ALL OCCUPYING THAT LAND UNLAWFULLY AND THEY OUGHT TO GO. THAT'S THE WAY TO BRING PEACE BACK AND I THINK THAT THE MILITARY ACTION (WHICH WE HOPED TO AVOID BECAUSE WE HOPED THAT SENSE WOULD PREVAIL IN BUENOS AIRES) THAT ACTION WILL I HOPE CAUSE THEM TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS. ALL I CAN SAY IS THAT, IN THE CASE OF THE CRUISER YESTERDAY, THAT POSED A SERIOUS THREAT TO OUR FORCES, AND SO THEY TOOK ACTION. WE HAD A HELICOPTER THAT WAS ATTACKED BY TWO SHIPS AND THEY RECEIVED THE APPROPRIATE RESPONSE. SO I HOPE THAT AS A START AT ANY RATE THE ARGENTINES WILL RESPECT THAT TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE - RESPECT IT, AND WE ARE THERE TO PROTECT WHAT IS BRITISH TERRITORY AND THE CHOICE IS REALLY THEIRS. WE DON'T WANT TO MAKE FURTHER ATTACKS ON THEM OR ANYTHING AT THE MOMENT - WE WANT THEM TO WITHDRAW. WHAT WE ARE DOING AT THE MOMENT, AND THE PURPOSE OF OUR MILITARY EFFORT, IS TO SECURE THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE OF WHICH WE GAVE PROPER NOTICE.

Q: CHARLES WHEELER (BBC)

IS IT YOUR POSITION THAT ON THE DIPLOMATIC FRONT ARGENTINA MUST NOW MAKE THE FIRST MOVE?

A: BASICALLY YES IT IS. THEY STARTED THIS WAR. THEY INVADED THE ISLANDS UNLAWFULLY AND THEY HAVE GOT TO GO FROM THOSE ISLANDS. THAT IS THE POSITION.

Q: HAVE YOU FOUND SYMPATHY WITH THAT AMONG THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICIALS YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING TO?

A: YES THEY UNDERSTAND THAT, AND I HAVE EXPLAINED TO THEM THE BRITISH VIEW ABOUT THIS. IT ISN'T JUST A LITTLE ARGUMENT DOWN IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC ABOUT A SMALL GROUP OF ISLANDS WITH ONLY A FEW PEOPLE INVOLVED. WE ARE TALKING HERE ABOUT THE RIGHT OF DEMOCRACIES, THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO CHOOSE THE KIND OF LIFE THEY WANT FOR THEMSELVES. THAT'S WHY THE BRITISH NAVY HAS GONE 8,000 MILES TO THEIR DEFENCE. AND THAT IS AN INTEREST TO LOTS OF COUNTRIES IN EVERY CONTINENT ALL ROUND THE WORLD.

Q: DO THEY AGREE THAT AFTER SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 532 ARGENTINA SHOULD MAKE THE NEXT MOVE?

A: THAT IS QUITE CLEARLY WHAT THE RESOLUTION SAYS AND THAT POSITION AND OUR INSISTENCE UPON IT IS UNDERSTOOD.

A: THAT IS QUITE CLEARLY WHAT THE RESOLUTION SAYS AND THAT POSITION AND OUR INSISTENCE UPON IT IS UNDERSTOOD.

Q: BUT DO THE PEOPLE TO WHOM YOU HAVE BEEN TALKING, THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS, AGREE THAT ARGENTINA SHOULD MAKE THE NEXT MOVE?

A: THEY DIDN'T EXPRESS IT IN PRECISELY THOSE TERMS. THEY TOOK NOTE THAT THAT WAS QUITE CLEARLY THE BRITISH VIEW AND THE FACT THAT I COULDN'T SEE ANY ALTERNATIVE BUT THE ARGENTINES MAKING THE FIRST MOVE OF THIS KIND. THAT WASN'T NECESSARILY ACCEPTED EITHER BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR THE SECRETARY GENERAL, BUT THEY UNDERSTOOD EXACTLY WHAT I WAS SAYING. AND I MADE THE POINT THAT THE INTEREST AND IMPORTANCE OF THE ISSUE IS MUCH WIDER THAN JUST THE RESOLUTION ITSELF, AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS THEMSELVES.

Q: BERNARD NOSSITER, NEW YORK TIMES:

YOU SAID YOU THOUGHT THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS A PARTICULAR INTEREST IN THIS MATTER. DOES THAT MEAN THAT YOU WOULD LIKE TO SEE ANOTHER SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND, IF SO, WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO PRODUCE IN THE WAY OF A RESOLUTION?

A: MY POSITION IS THAT I WOULD LIKE TO SEE RESOLUTION 502 CARRIED OUT. IT SEEMS TO ME THAT NO OTHER RESOLUTION CAN EXACTLY REPLACE THAT AND THE PROBLEM IS TO SEE THAT IT IS DONE. YOU SEE, DURING THE LAST THREE OR FOUR WEEKS, SINCE THE RESOLUTION WAS PASSED, SO FAR FROM THE ARGENTINES HAVING ANY THOUGHT OF OBEYING IT, THEY HAVE SPENT THE TIME REINFORCEING THE ISLAND. THERE ARE NOW SOME THOUSANDS OF TROOPS ON THAT ISLAND. NOW THAT'S A FLAGRANT ABUSE AND FLAGRANT DISOBEDIENCE OF THE RESOLUTION. THE ONLY WAY TO MAKE PROGRESS IS FOR THE WITHDRAWAL THAT WAS ASKED FOR FOUR WEEKS AGO ACTUALLY TO TAKE PLACE. IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING, OBVIOUSLY, THAT THE BRITISH TASK FORCE THERE WOULD FACILITATE THAT AND INDEED PROTECT IT IF NECESSARY, SO THAT IT TAKES PLACE URGENTLY. AND THAT'S THE NEXT MOVE.

Q: THAT MEANS THEN THAT YOU DO NOT WANT TO SEE ANOTHER MEETING ON TOP OF THAT ONE NOW?

A: IT'S NOT FOR ME TO DECIDE THAT OF COURSE. I DON'T QUITE SEE HOW THEY CAN TAKE IT FURTHER UNTIL THAT RESOLUTION IS CARRIED OUT. IF THEY WERE TO MEET NO DOUBT THEY MIGHT DISCUSS JUST HOW THAT WAS GOING TO BE ACHIEVED. ONE COUNTRY IS IN BREACH OF A RESOLUTION WHICH THEY PASSED AND THAT IS QUITE A SERIOUS MATTER. BUT I THINK UNTIL THERE IS A MOVE ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE, IT IS VERY DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT FURTHER PROGRESS CAN BE MADE.

Q: IN THIS PARTICULAR PROBLEM HOW CAN YOU RECONCILE TWO OBVIOUS DIFFERENT IDEAS ON DETERMINING SOVEREIGNTY. YOU CLAIM THAT YOU HAVE SOVEREIGNTY ON A COLONIAL TERRITORY WHICH IS NOT AN INTEGRAL PART OF GREAT BRITAIN. WHILE ARGENTINA CLAIMS SOVEREIGNTY OF AN INTEGRAL PART OF ITS TERRITORY. IT'S NOT THE SAME THING.

A: IT'S NOT THE SAME THING. FOR 149 YEARS THE BRITISH HAVE BEEN IN POSSESSION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. WE HAVE ADMINISTERED IT. WE HAVE LOOKED AFTER IT. WE HAVE ALLOWED THE PEOPLE TO GOVERN THEMSELVES AS THEY PREFER IT TO BE GOVERNED. AND WE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE A DIFFERENT VIEW ABOUT IT - WE HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE FACT THAT THEY BELIEVE THEY HAVE A CLAIM. ALL RIGHT. LET THAT BE DISCUSSED AND TALKED ABOUT AND NEGOTIATED ABOUT AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. WE WERE NEGOTIATING ABOUT IT, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE ARGENTINES, ONLY A FEW WEEKS AGO. THAT IS THE WAY TO DO IT AND YOU CANNOT ALLOW A POSITION TO ARISE WHERE A BIG COUNTRY ANNEXES A SMALL COUNTRY BY FORCE AND BY INVASION. THAT IS THE WAY TO INTERNATIONAL DISORDER AND THE UNITED NATIONS RIGHT HERE IS AN ORGANISATION CONCERNED WITH INTERNATIONAL ORDER. THAT IS WHY IT'S SO IMPORTANT TO RIGHT THAT WRONG. IF THEY HAVE A CLAIM (AND WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY HAVE A CLAIM; WE DO NOT THINK IT'S A VALID CLAIM, BUT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT EXISTS) LET IT BE ARGUED ABOUT, LET IT BE TALKED ABOUT, LET IT BE ADJUDICATED UPON IN A CIVILISED WAY ROUND THE NEGOTIATING TABLE. NO WAY CAN IT BE CONCLUDED EITHER BY FORCE OR BY THE ARGENTINES SIMPLY SAYING THAT IT BELONGS TO THEM.

Q: BUT YOU HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING THIS FOR 17 YEARS AND NOW YOU SAY THAT THEY ANNEXED - HOW CAN YOU ANNEX A TERRITORY THAT YOU CLAIM IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF YOUR OWN TERRITORY?

A: WE HAVE NEVER BEEN IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT OUR TITLE TO IT. WE HAVE HAD IT FOR 149 YEARS AND THAT IS CLEARLY QUITE A LONG TIME. YOU TALK ABOUT IT AS THOUGH IT IS A COLONY. EVERYBODY IN THIS ROOM KNOWS THAT ALMOST INCREDIBLE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE BRITISH PEOPLE IN CAUSING WHAT WAS ONCE A GREAT EMPIRE TO BECOME A SERIES OF INDEPENDENT COUNTRIES, PROUD IN THEIR OWN RIGHT AND VERY SUCCESSFUL TOO. WHAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE BEEN DOING IS NOT A PROCESS OF DECOLONISATION, IT'S A PROCESS OF RECOLONISATION. THEY HAVE ACTUALLY INVADED A COUNTRY IN ORDER TO TAKE IT OVER FOR THEMSELVES. THERE IS NO WAY THE UNITED NATIONS CAN ALLOW THAT TO STAND. ALTHOUGH IT'S ONLY A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE ON A SMALL GROUP OF ISLANDS IT IS OF IMPORTANCE TO OTHER COUNTRIES IN EVERY CONTINENT. THAT IS WHY THE BRITISH ARE THERE TO DEFEND THE RIGHT OF PEOPLE TO GOVERN THEMSELVES AS THEY PREFER.

Q: KEITH HINDELL, BBC:

IN THE LONG TERM ARE THE WISHES OF THE POPULATION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS STILL PARAMOUNT, AS THE PRIME MINISTER SAID SOME WEEKS AGO?

A: THAT'S REALLY WHAT THE ARGUMENT IS ABOUT: THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO CHOOSE WHAT GOVERNMENT THEY WANT FOR THEMSELVES. IT IS PECULIARLY DIFFICULT IN THIS CASE BECAUSE THEY ARE A SMALL

... THAT TO REALLY WHAT THE ARGUMENT IS ABOUT: THE RIGHTS OF PEOPLE TO CHOOSE WHAT GOVERNMENT THEY WANT FOR THEMSELVES. IT IS PECULIARLY DIFFICULT IN THIS CASE BECAUSE THEY ARE A SMALL NUMBER OF PEOPLE AND THEY ARE A LONG WAY AWAY. BUT WE HAVE ALWAYS RESPECTED THEIR WISHES; WE HAVE REGARDED OURSELVES, SUCCESSIVE BRITISH GOVERNMENTS, AS TRUSTEES FOR THOSE PEOPLE. BECAUSE THEY ARE IN TROUBLE NOW, BECAUSE THEY HAVE BEEN INVADED, WE ARE GOING TO GO TO THEIR DEFENCE. IT'S THE SAME AS WHAT HAPPENED IN, SAY, AFGHANISTAN, ONLY UNFORTUNATELY WE CANNOT DO MUCH ABOUT THAT. THERE ARE OTHER COUNTRIES: POLAND IS ANOTHER THAT COMES TO MIND. OTHER COUNTRIES ALL ROUND THE WORLD, WHERE THESE RIGHTS OF SELF-DETERMINATION, WHICH ARE BASIC TO THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER, ARE NOT BEING FULFILLED. HERE IS A CASE WHERE BRITISH TERRITORY IS CONCERNED AND BRITISH SUBJECTS; THE REASON THE TASK FORCE IS DOWN THERE IS TO PROTECT THEM AND WE ARE ENTITLED TO SELF-DEFENCE OF OUR OWN TERRITORY AND OUR OWN PEOPLE UNDER THE CHARTER. AFTER THIS IS ALL OVER AND THE SOONER THE BETTER, WHAT VIEW THE PEOPLE ON THE ISLANDS WILL THEN TAKE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE AND HOW THEY WANT IT ORGANISED IS SOMETHING THAT WILL HAVE TO BE DETERMINED.

Q: IN DEFENDING THESE RIGHTS IN THE VIGOROUS MANNER THAT YOU'RE DOING, ARE YOU NOT IN FACT RISKING A VERY MAJOR CONFLICT BETWEEN THE BRITISH AND AMERICAN WORLD AND LATIN AMERICA?

A: WE INTEND TO SUCCEED, IF POSSIBLE BY A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, BUT, IF NOT, BY FORCE, HOWEVER UNWELCOME. WHEN WE SUCCEED, THE WORLD WILL BE A SAFER PLACE BECAUSE PEOPLE WILL REALISE THAT THERE ARE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS WHICH THE FREE DEMOCRACIES OF THE WORLD WILL STAND UP TO DEFEND. WE HAVE BEEN DOING IT FOR A LONG TIME IN OUR HISTORY. MANY OTHER COUNTRIES TOO HAVE TAKEN THE SAME VIEW. THEREFORE I BELIEVE THAT WHAT WE ARE DOING IS ACTUALLY OF GREAT IMPORTANCE FOR THE LONG TERM STABILITY OF PEOPLE. THAT IS VERY IMPORTANT FOR TRADE AND PROSPERITY AND ALL THE NICE THINGS ABOUT LIFE WHICH PEOPLE WANT.

Q: DON SHANNON, LOS ANGELES TIMES:

IF THE RESOLUTION IS NOT BEING CARRIED OUT, THE PERMANENT MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THIS IS DONE. IS BRITAIN AS A PERMANENT MEMBER NOT OBLIGED TO RECONVENE THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND SEE THAT SOMETHING IS DONE TOWARD RECONVENE THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND SEE THAT SOMETHING IS DONE TOWARD ENFORCING THE RESOLUTION? THAT SEEMS ALMOST YOUR RESPONSIBILITY.

A: I'M NOT A UNITED NATIONS EXPERT. MY FIRST REACTION TO THAT IS THAT I PRESUME IT WOULD BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE MEMBERS OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY

OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL OR THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL. IT IS NOT A PARTICULARLY BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY TO SEE THAT THE RESOLUTION IS CARRIED OUT: BUT WE ARE VERY ENTHUSIASTIC THAT IT SHOULD BE, AS IT IS A BASIC PRINCIPLE, AS FAR AS WE ARE CONCERNED, THAT A RESOLUTION OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT. IT IS A COLLECTIVE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THEM AND I THINK RIGHT NOW IT IS A COLLECTIVE ANXIETY FOR THEM. BUT THE WAY TO BRING PEACE AND TO RESTORE SENSE IS FOR THE ARGENTINES TO CHANGE THEIR MIND AND WITHDRAW - THAT IS QUITE SIMPLE.

1: ECONOMIC SANCTIONS WOULD BE THE LOGICAL NEXT STEP. WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE THAT DONE BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL SO THAT ALL MEMBERS OF THE UNITED NATIONS WOULD BE APPLYING SANCTIONS TO ARGENTINA?

A: ANY ESCALATION OF PRESSURE WOULD BE A GOOD THING. WE HAVE CONDUCTED OUR STRATEGY ON THAT BASIS ALL THE WAY THROUGH, WITH AN INEXORABLE BUILD-UP OF PRESSURE. THE MOST SIGNIFICANT ADVANCE IN THAT RECENTLY WAS OF COURSE THE UNITED STATES COMING DOWN ON OUR SIDE BEHIND BRITAIN, AS WE WERE SURE THAT SHE WOULD BECAUSE SHE WOULD BE ON THE SIDE OF THE VICTIM, THE DEMOCRACY, AGAINST THE AGGRESSOR AND THE INVADER. YOU SEE THERE IS NOBODY IN ARGENTINA WHO IS ELECTED - THE GOVERNMENT THERE IN ALL ITS COMPLEXITY IS NOT ELECTED BY ANYBODY. IT IS ONLY RESPONSIBLE TO ITSELF. THE PRINCIPLE WE ARE TALKING ABOUT HERE IS TO PRESERVE THE RIGHTS OF BRITISH PEOPLE LIVING IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC.

Q: MUTUAL NEWS:

WOULD YOU GIVE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR CONTACTS WITH THE UN PERSONNEL ON THIS TRIP?

A: I CAME TO MEET THE SECRETARY GENERAL AND I OUTLINED TO HIM THE BRITISH POSITION. I SAID THAT UNTIL TWO THINGS HAPPENED - THAT IS TO SAY, ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL AND THEIR ABANDONMENT OF THEIR CLAIM TO RETAIN SOVEREIGNTY, WHICH IS CERTAINLY CHALLENGEABLE - IT WAS VERY DIFFICULT TO SEE WHAT PROGRESS THERE COULD BE. BUT I ASKED HIM IN WHAT WAYS HE THOUGHT HE MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP: AND WHAT ROLE THE UNITED NATIONS MIGHT BE ABLE TO PLAY. HE PUT FORWARD A NUMBER OF IDEAS AND I AM OF COURSE GOING TO TAKE THESE BACK WITH ME. I FELT, (AND IT IS FOR HIM TO COMMENT WHAT HIS REACTION IS, HE MIGHT FEEL THIS HIMSELF AS WELL) THAT THE TIME IS NOT RIPE AT THE MOMENT FOR ANY KIND OF DEVELOPMENTS AS FAR AS THE UNITED NATIONS IS CONCERNED. IT IS NOT FOR ME TO SAY THAT FOR HIM BUT THAT WAS AN IMPRESSION THAT I GAINED. SIMILARLY WITH MR HAIG - EXACTLY THE SAME THING - I DON'T MIND WHAT FORMAT IS USED, WHAT MECHANISM MIGHT BE DEvised, WHATEVER IT IS THAT PRODUCES THE DESIRED RESULT, LET'S CONSIDER IT. AND AGAIN THIS MORNING WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL, I REHEARSED OUR POSITION. I ASKED HIM FOR HIS IDEAS.

THERE ARE NO SPECIFIC IDEAS AT THE MOMENT THAT HE WISHED TO PUT TO ME; BUT WE TALKED AROUND VARIOUS POSSIBILITIES WHICH MIGHT COME UP IN THE FUTURE AND WE ARE GOING TO KEEP IN VERY CLOSE TOUCH THROUGH OUR AMBASSADOR, AND FOLLOW THE STORY ALONG BUT I THINK WE ARE ALL AGREED, I MADE IT VERY, VERY CLEAR, THAT ON OUR PART THE NEXT STEP DID LAY WITH THE ARGENTINES AND THAT'S REALLY WHAT WE ARE STILL WAITING FOR.

Q: MR SCOTLAND: BLACK AMERICAN:

THE ARGENTINIANS HAVE INSISTED THAT THEIR SOVEREIGNTY IS NOT NEGOTIABLE. WHAT OPTIONS ARE LEFT TO THE BRITISH TO RESPOND TO THIS BLIND RIGIDITY?

A: THAT IS TOTALLY NON-NEGOTIABLE AND UNACCEPTABLE TO US. WE HAVE BEEN THERE FOR 149 YEARS, SINCE 1833. WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE ARGENTINES BELIEVE THEY HAVE A CLAIM. WE DO NOT THINK IT IS A VALID CLAIM OR ONE THAT CAN BE UPHELD, BUT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THEY THINK THAT THEY HAVE SUCH A CLAIM. LET IT BE TALKED ABOUT, LET IT BE NEGOTIATED ABOUT, OR AT ANY RATE DISCUSSED, BEARING IN MIND THE WISHES OF THE PEOPLE INVOLVED. SO LONG AS THE ARGENTINES STICK TO THEIR VIEW THAT THOSE ISLANDS ARE THEIR ISLANDS AND THEY ARE NOT GOING TO MOVE, THERE IS NO WAY IN WHICH WE CAN ACCEPT THEIR POSITION.

Q: AGENCE FRANCE PRESSE:

YESTERDAY YOU INDICATED THAT IN YOUR OPINION THE HAIG EFFORT HAD NOT COME TO A HALT. HOW WOULD YOU LIKE IT TO PROCEED NOW IN VIEW OF THE OBVIOUS OPPOSITE POSITION OF THE PARTIES?

A: WE DISCUSSED AGAIN POSSIBLE IDEAS. WHAT HAPPENED WAS THAT AT THE END OF HIS LONG SHUTTLE HE CAME OUT WITH PROPOSALS OF HIS OWN WHICH AS YOU KNOW THE ARGENTINES TURNED DOWN. AS FAR AS I WAS CONCERNED THAT WAS CONCERNED THAT WAS CERTAINLY NOT THE END OF THE DIPLOMATIC EFFORT AND MR HAIG DOESN'T SEE IT LIKE THAT EITHER. WE DISCUSSED YESTERDAY IN THE NEW CONTEXT WHAT OTHER POSSIBILITIES THERE MIGHT BE. THERE WAS A RANGE OF SUGGESTIONS. THERE SEEMS TO BE TALK AND RUMOURS IN THE PRESS ABOUT A SERIES OF PROPOSALS THAT CAME FROM PERU. AS A MATTER OF FACT THERE WERE SOME IDEAS THAT HE TOLD ME HAD ORIGINATED THERE, WHICH WE TALKED ABOUT AND IN FACT SINCE THEN AS YOU KNOW THE ARGENTINES HAVE TURNED THOSE DOWN. THEY WERE NEVER PUT TO US IN ANY SENSE AT ALL, SO I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THEY WERE IN DETAIL. IF ANY OTHER IDEAS COME UP IN ANY CONTACTS THAT HE HAS WITH OTHER COUNTRIES ANYWHERE, WHICH PRODUCE A CONSTRUCTIVE SUGGESTION, I'LL LISTEN TO IT. BUT THE ESSENCE OF IT REMAINS THESE TWO POINTS UPON WHICH THE ARGENTINES WILL HAVE TO GIVE WAY.

Q: JOHN DICKIE, DAILY MAIL:

DESPITE ALL YOUR EFFORTS IT SEEMS THAT VERY LITTLE PROGRESS

DESPITE ALL YOUR EFFORTS IT SEEMS THAT VERY LITTLE PROGRESS HAS BEEN MADE TOWARDS A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION. DO YOU ACCEPT THEREFORE THAT YOUR OWN DIPLOMATIC SHUTTLE IS OVER FOR THE TIME BEING AND THAT UNTIL FURTHER MILITARY ACTION MAKES THE ARGENTINE JUNTA AGREE TO TOTAL WITHDRAWAL THERE IS REALLY NOT MUCH YOU CAN DO?

A: I CERTAINLY DON'T REGARD IT AS OVER AND I HAVE NOT BEEN CONDUCTING A SHUTTLE. I HAVE COME OVER IN A NEW SITUATION TO TALK TO THE SECRETARY OF STATE, MR HAIG, AND TO THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO EXPLORE WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE I WILL KEEP MYSELF AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS ANY POSSIBILITIES WITH ANYBODY. BUT IT DOES NOT LOOK TERRIBLY HOPEFUL AT THE MOMENT. THEY HAVE GOT TO CHANGE THEIR MINDS. WE WILL IN THE MEANTIME SECURE OUR TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE. THAT IS THE SITUATION AS IT IS TODAY AND WE HOPE THAT BETTER COUNSEL WILL PREVAIL IN BUENOS AIRES.

Q: AL AHRAM, CAIRO:

IS THIS A WAR OR WHAT IS IT? NOBODY HAS DECLARED WAR. WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PRISONERS OF WAR AND OTHER THINGS THAT MIGHT COME UP DURING THE CONFLICT?

A: IT IS AN ILLEGAL INVASION BY A LARGE COUNTRY, WHICH IS NOT BASED ON ANY DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLE IN ITS GOVERNANCE, INVADING A VERY SMALL COUNTRY NEXT DOOR TO IT, IN FLAGRANT BREACH OF INTERNATIONAL LAW AND ALSO IN BREACH OF A UNITED NATIONS RESOLUTION. WE ARE DOWN THERE WITH OUR TASK FORCE IN ORDER TO DEFEND BRITISH SOIL AND BRITISH PEOPLE. WHAT WE WANT IS THE PRESSURE OF THE OPINION OF THE WORLD, WHICH LONGS FOR A PEACEFUL CONCLUSION, TO BE BROUGHT TO BEAR ON THE ARGENTINES SO THAT THEY RETREAT FROM A SITUATION WHICH THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO TAKE UP.

Q: MARK HAINES, WABC TV:

ON THE SUBJECT OF INEXORABLE PRESSURE, AREN'T YOU RUNNING THE ENORMOUS RISK OF APPLYING TOO MUCH PRESSURE AND SO DAMAGING ARGENTINE NATIONAL HONOUR THAT THEY CANNOT RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE?

A: I DON'T THINK SO. WE HAVE GOT TO PROTECT BRITISH TERRITORY AND BRITISH PEOPLE. THE ONLY WAY WE CAN DO THAT, OR THE RIGHT WAY IT SEEMED FOR US TO DO THAT, WAS TO DECLARE THIS EXCLUSION ZONE, ORIGINALLY MARITIME ONLY AND NOW TOTAL, ROUND OUR OWN TERRITORY. IT THAT IS RESPECTED BY THE ARGENTINES, AND THEY ONLY HAVE TO KEEP RIGHT AWAY, THEN THE ACTION THAT WE HEARD ABOUT YESTERDAY AND THE DAY BEFORE WOULD NOT TAKE PLACE. THE PORT STANLEY AIRFIELD WAS OF COURSE AN ADVANTAGE TO THE ARGENTINES WHICH WE DID NOT THINK WE COULD AFFORD TO ALLOW

THEM TO RETAIN, AND THAT IS WHY WE TOOK THAT OUT. WE ARE SECURING THAT ZONE AND IT IS UP TO THEM TO MAKE UP THEIR MINDS WHAT THEY ARE GOING TO DO NOW..

Q: IT'S FAIR TO SAY THAT YOU DO NOT CONSIDER IT POSSIBLE THAT YOU MIGHT SO DAMAGE THE ARGENTINES THAT THEY FEEL THAT THEY CANNOT GRACEFULLY RETURN TO THE NEGOTIATING TABLE?

A: I AM AFRAID I DON'T MIND WHAT HAPPENS TO THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT, WHETHER THEY FALL, WHETHER THERE IS ANOTHER ONE, WHETHER THEY CHANGE TWO OR THREE TIMES, I DON'T MIND. THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE THERE. THE SECURITY COUNCIL HAS SO DECLARED. WE DON'T WANT TO GET THEM OUT WITH A FIGHT IF WE CAN AVOID IT. WE WANT TO GET THEM OUT BY COMMON-SENSE AND REASON AND NOBODY HAS BEEN ABLE TO CHALLENGE THE FACT THAT THEY ARE WHEN THEY OUGHT NOT TO BE THERE. NOBODY HAS CHALLENGED THE FACT THAT WE ARE RIGHT IN SAYING THEY MUST WITHDRAW AND THE POSITION FOR THE LONGER TERM, EVERYBODY WOULD SAY, MUST BE NEGOTIATED AND TALKED ABOUT ROUND A TABLE IN A CIVILISED WAY.

Q: CABLE NEWS NETWORK:

THERE IS A PERCEPTION HERE THAT BRITAIN IS NOT REALLY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT THE UN GETTING FURTHER INVOLVED AND THAT PEREZ DE CUELLAR CANNOT REALLY MEDIATE UNLESS BOTH SIDES WANT HIM TO AND THAT SINCE BRITAIN HAS RESOLUTION 502 YOU DO NOT REALLY WANT ANY MORE UN ACTION.

A: YOU ARE WRONG IN THAT PERCEPTION. OTHERWISE I WOULD NOT BE HERE. I HAVE COME HERE TO SHARE THE VIEWS AND TO EXPLORE WHAT THE POSSIBILITIES ARE. IT IS THE FIRST CHANCE I'VE HAD OF DOING THAT AND I HAVE EXPRESSED CERTAIN VIEWS ABOUT IT BUT I DO NOT EXCLUDE A UNITED NATIONS ROLE. I THINK THAT THE UNITED NATIONS OUGHT TO SAY THE ARGENTINES MUST WITHDRAW - THEY HAVE SAID THAT. AND THEY HAVE GOT TO THINK TOGETHER AND WORRY TOGETHER ABOUT HOW THEY ARE GOING TO GET THAT ACHIEVED. IF I TOOK THE VIEW THAT YOU SUGGEST I TAKE, I WOULD NOT BE HERE.

Q: YOU SPEAK A LITTLE ABOUT THE PERUVIAN INITIATIVE AND ALSO SPAIN HAS OFFERED TO MEDIATE. ARE YOU TAKING SERIOUSLY THE PERUVIAN INITIATIVE? CAN YOU GIVE US SOME DETAILS? ARE YOU TAKING THE OFFER OF SPAIN?

A: I HAVE NO IDEA HOW SERIOUS IT WAS. I READ ABOUT IT IN THE PRESS AND AS I SAY MR HAIG DID REFER TO IT AS A MATTER OF FACT YESTERDAY. BUT IS HAS NOW BEEN REJECTED, WHATEVER IT WAS, BY THE ARGENTINES SO THAT SEEMS TO BE THE END OF IT.

Q: YOU CLAIM THAT THIS IS A BRITISH TERRITORY AND ARGENTINA CLAIMS THAT IT BELONGS TO THEM. HOW CAN YOU GO TO A NEGOTIATING TABLE?

A. THE ARGENTINES SAY THEY HAVE A CLAIM AND I HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY MAINTAIN THEY HAVE A CLAIM. WE DO NOT THINK THAT CLAIM

THAT IT BELONGS TO THEM. HOW CAN YOU GO TO A NEGOTIATING TABLE?

A: THE ARGENTINES SAY THEY HAVE A CLAIM AND I HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT THEY MAINTAIN THEY HAVE A CLAIM. WE DO NOT THINK THAT CLAIM IS VALID BUT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE ARGENTINES THINK THAT IT IS, WHICH IS A VERY REASONABLE POSITION. THE BRITISH HAVE SAID WE HAVE GOT OPEN MINDS ABOUT ITS STATUS IN THE LONG TERM BUT WE MUST ALWAYS HAVE DUE AND PROPER RESPECT FOR THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE ON THE ISLANDS AND THAT IS VERY MUCH IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. THE ARGENTINES COME ALONG AND THEN FIRST OF ALL INVADE IT AND ANNEX IT QUITE REGARDLESS OF THE VIEWS OF THE PEOPLE AND ARE TAKING BY FORCE WHAT THEY HAVE NEVER BEEN ABLE TO MAINTAIN AND HAVE UPHELD IN ANY COURT OR ANY NEGOTIATING TABLE ANYWHERE AND THAT IS THE ILLEGALITY OF IT. THAT IS WHAT IS WRONG ABOUT IT AND THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO IT AND EVERYBODY KNOWS THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO DO IT AND SO THEY MUST CHANGE THEIR MINDS AND THEN LET US SIT DOWN AGAIN AND TALK ABOUT IT.

Q: YOUR DEFENCE MINISTRY THIS MORNING ANNOUNCED THAT IT WAS RECRUITING THE QE2 TO CARRY TROOPS THERE. DOES THAT INDICATE THAT YOU ARE SENDING MORE MESSAGES TO THE ARGENTINE ABOUT MILITARY OPTIONS THAN THE DIPLOMATIC?

A: NO. THAT IS A LONG TERM PRECAUTION. WE DO NOT KNOW HOW THESE EVENTS ARE GOING TO UNFOLD. OUR HOPE AT THE ONE END OF THE SCALE IS THAT SENSE AND REASON AND JUSTICE AND LEGALITY WILL PREVAIL IN BUENOS AIRES AND THEY WILL WITHDRAW AND THAT WILL BE THE END OF IT. BUT WE DON'T KNOW THAT THAT IS GOING TO HAPPEN AND WE HAVE TROOPS ON THE TASK FORCE 8,000 MILES AWAY FROM HOME. IF THINGS DID NOT GO WELL, IF THIS DISPUTE AGAINST ALL OUR WISHES AND DESPITE ALL OUR EFFORTS BECAME LONG DRAWN OUT, THEN WE HAVE TO THINK ABOUT HOW WE ARE GOING TO MAKE THE NECESSARY RELEASE OF OUR FORCES. BECAUSE THE DISTANCE IS SO ENORMOUS WE HAVE TO THINK SEVERAL WEEKS AHEAD IN TERMS OF CHANGING TROOPS OVER IF IT COMES TO THIS. IT IS NOT IN ANY WAY A MEASURE PARTICULARLY DESIGNED TO INCREASE PRESSURE ON THE ARGENTINE NOW. IT IS A SENSIBLE PRECAUTION FROM OUR POINT OF VIEW. IF IT HAS THE EFFECT OF INCREASING THAT PRESSURE ON THE ARGENTINE, I AM QUITE HAPPY THAT IT SHOULD BE SO. BUT EVERYBODY IN THIS ROOM WITH ANY MILITARY KNOWLEDGE WILL UNDERSTAND THAT YOU HAVE TO THINK A VERY LONG WAY AHEAD WHEN CONTEMPLATING THE POSSIBILITY OF SOMETHING THAT MAY GO ON FOR LONGER THAN ANYBODY HOPES.

Q: THE QE2 - YOU HAVE OTHER SHIPS AVAILABLE HOWEVER. I WONDER WHY THE QE2.

A: THE REASONS IS THAT IT HAPPENS TO BE AVAILABLE IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS AND IT HAPPENS TO BE LARGE ENOUGH TO CARRY THE

FEW DAYS AND IT HAPPENS TO BE LARGE ENOUGH TO CARRY THE NUMBER OF TROOPS THAT IT IS ENVISAGED TO CARRY. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN POSSIBLE TO HAVE TWO OR THREE OTHER SHIPS THAT WOULD DO THE SAME JOB BUT IN FACT I UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE NOT TWO OR THREE OTHER SHIPS AVAILABLE IN THE TIME SCALE THAT WAS REQUIRED, AND THAT'S THE ONLY ONE THAT IS AVAILABLE. THAT'S MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE POSITION AND THAT'S THE REASON FOR IT.

Q: MICHAEL COLES, BBC TV;

AT THE END OF A WEEKEND OF CONCERTED MILITARY ACTION, APPARENTLY SUCCESSFUL FROM BRITAIN'S POINT OF VIEW, AND YOUR CONSULTATIONS IN WASHINGTON AND HERE, DO YOU HAVE ANY SENSE AT ALL THAT YOU ARE CLOSER TO THE END OF HOSTILITIES OR DO YOU FEEL THAT WE ARE IN FOR A PROTRACTED PERIOD OF WARFARE?

A: I WOULD HOPE THAT WE ARE NEARER, BUT THAT IS UP TO THE ARGENTINES AND WE MUST SEE. I WOULD LIKE TO COMMENT ON YOUR PHRASE "CONCERTED MILITARY ACTIVITY". THAT MILITARY ACTIVITY HAS BEEN ENTIRELY DIRECTED TO SECURING THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE OF WHICH WE GAVE NOTICE. THE ARGENTINES STARTED THE AGGRESSION. THEY INVADED THE ISLAND FIRST. IT IS BRITISH TERRITORY AND THERE ARE BRITISH PEOPLE THERE. WE HAVE GONE TO DEFEND THEM AS WE ARE ENTITLED TO DO UNDER THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER. WE DECIDED TO DO IT BY DECLARING A CERTAIN ZONE, QUITE CAREFULLY IDENTIFIED, THAT WE WOULD SECURE OVER BRITISH TERRITORY. THE MILITARY ACTION TO WHICH YOU REFER HAS BEEN DESIGNED TO DO THAT. I HOPE THAT WITH THIS BUILD-UP OF ECONOMIC AND DIPLOMATIC AND MILITARY PRESSURE, THAT THE ARGENTINES WILL BEGIN TO TAKE MORE NOTICE AND BY MY PRESENCE HERE AND THE TALKS I HAVE HAD WITH THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL, THAT ALL THE FREEDOM-LOVING PEOPLES OF THE WORLD SEE HOW VITAL IT IS THAT THE RIGHTS OF THESE ISLANDERS ARE UPHOLD AND THAT WE ARE DEFENDING THEM. IN MY VIEW, WHEN THIS IS SUCCESSFULLY ACHIEVED, THE WORLD WILL HEAVE A SIGH OF RELIEF. IT WILL BE A MORE PEACEFUL PLACE AND THERE WILL BE A GREATER DEGREE OF STABILITY AND THAT IS VERY MUCH A BRITISH INTEREST AND AN INTEREST TO ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

Q: A.P.

WHEN WERE THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLANDS LAST CONSULTED WHETHER THEY WANTED TO BE BRITISH OR ARGENTINE, AND WHAT WAS THE FORM OF THE CONSULTATION AND WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

A: A BRITISH MINISTER WENT OUT LAST YEAR AND HAD MEETINGS WITH THEM TO DISCUSS WITH THEM POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. WHEN WE WERE NEGOTIATING SOME MONTHS AGO WITH ARGENTINA WE HAD WITH US

BE A GREATER DEGREE OF STABILITY AND THAT IS VERY MUCH A BRITISH INTEREST AND AN INTEREST TO ALL COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD.

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WHEN WERE THE PEOPLE OF THE FALKLANDS LAST CONSULTED WHETHER THEY WANTED TO BE BRITISH OR ARGENTINE, AND WHAT WAS THE FORM OF THE CONSULTATION AND WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

A: A BRITISH MINISTER WENT OUT LAST YEAR AND HAD MEETINGS WITH THEM TO DISCUSS WITH THEM POSSIBLE ALTERNATIVES. WHEN WE WERE NEGOTIATING SOME MONTHS AGO WITH ARGENTINA, WE HAD WITH US (I AM NOT SURE WHETHER THEY WERE IN THE ROOM BUT THEY WERE CERTAINLY PART OF OUR DELEGATION) REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS. SO THE ANSWER TO THAT IS VERY THOROUGHLY AND VERY CAREFULLY AND VERY RECENTLY. AND WHEN ALL THIS IS OVER, SOME PROCESS WILL OF COURSE HAVE TO BE GONE THROUGH TO ASCERTAIN WHAT THEIR VIEWS WILL BE AFTER THE INVASION BY ARGENTINA.

ENDS

PARSONS

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