

RESTRICTED

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SOUTH ATLANTIC PRESENTATION UNIT (SAPU)

The attached paper was issued at 1900 hours on 7 May 1982. It contains information and suggests the line to take on the following -

1. Mr Pym's Press Conference
2. Sporting links with Argentina
3. Are we at war?

Cabinet Office

7 May 1982

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LINE TO TAKE

1. Mr Pym's Press Conference

A transcript is attached.

2. Sporting links with Argentina (Reports of footballers' doubts about World Cup)

Government are keeping the position under review. Present policy is to discourage all bilateral sporting contact in United Kingdom or in Argentina. No objection at present to teams and individuals competing in international events (including the World Cup) held in other countries where Argentina may be represented. Reports in the press that the Minister of Sport will meet the Football Associations involved (England, Scotland, Northern Ireland) next week to advise on participation in the World Cup are incorrect. (The occasion is a press launch of a guidance leaflet for British football fans planning to travel to Spain.)

3. Are we at war?

'War' is a technical term with some complex implications. In the legal sense there is no war unless one or other side declares it or recognizes that a state of war exists. Neither side has done either (Mr Costa Mendez's remarks after the South Georgia operation that we were "technically at war" were evidently off the cuff remarks and have not been confirmed or repeated). Our operations in the South Atlantic are in self defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter (text below). We are enforcing the Total Exclusion Zone which cuts off supplies to the Argentine forces, which are illegally occupying the Falklands in defiance of Security Council Resolution 502. We are not in a state of general war against Argentina.

Article 51

"Nothing in the present Charter shall impair the inherent right of individual or collective self defence if an armed attack occurs against a member of the UN, until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security. Measures taken by members in the exercise of this right of self defence shall be immediately reported to the Security Council and shall not in any way affect the authority and responsibility of the Security Council under the present Charter to take at any time such action as it deems necessary in order to maintain or restore international peace and security."

NICK FENN: GOOD MORNING EVERYBODY, GOOD MORNING, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, AND WELCOME TO THIS PRESS CONFERENCE CONDUCTED BY THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY, MR. FRANCIS PYM, MAY I FIRST SAY ONE OR TWO WORDS BY WAY OF ADMINISTRATIVE INTRODUCTION, WE HAVE HAD, I UNDERSTAND, THIS MORNING THE AGE OLD ARGUMENT BETWEEN DIFFERENT BRANCHES OF YOUR PROFESSION WHICH WE SHALL RESOLVE IN THE AGE OLD MANNER OF INVITING THE STILL PHOTOGRAPHERS TO DO THEIR STUFF NOW AND THEY CAN COME FORWARD AND STAND UP AND DO WHAT THEY WANT FOR THE FIRST COUPLE OF MINUTES WHILE I'M TALKING AND THEN WILL THEY PLEASE BE SEATED AND ENABLE THEIR OTHER COLLEAGUES TO DO THEIR JOB, SECONDLY I SHOULD SAY THAT THE NORMAL NEWS DEPARTMENT, 12.30 NEWS CONFERENCE IS CANCELLED BECAUSE IT IS QUITE PLAINLY REDUNDANT BUT ANY OF YOU WHO WISH HOWEVER MAY COLLECT THE USUAL LIST OF MINISTERIAL ENGAGEMENTS AND ONE SMALL PRESS RELEASE ON ANOTHER SUBJECT FROM NEWS DEPARTMENT AS YOU LEAVE, AVAILABLE AS YOU LEAVE THIS ROOM WILL BE A COPY OF THE STATEMENT WHICH MR. PYM HAS JUST MADE TO PARLIAMENT, HE WILL BY WAY OF INTRODUCTION TO THIS PRESS CONFERENCE MAKE A STATEMENT WHICH WILL BE CLOSELY MODELLED ON THE PARLIAMENTARY STATEMENT ALTHOUGH NOT IN ALL RESPECTS TEXTURALLY IDENTICAL, THE PROCEEDINGS THIS MORNING WILL OF COURSE BE ON THE RECORD THROUGHOUT, I INVITE YOU WHEN YOU WANT TO ASK QUESTIONS TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF BY NAME AND PUBLICATION AND AFTER THE BRIEF INTRODUCTORY STATEMENT MR. PYM WILL BE GLAD TO TAKE YOUR QUESTIONS, JUST GIVE THEM ONE MOMENT MORE, SIR, AND THEN WE COULD PROCEED.

(TALKING IN BACKGROUND)

THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WILL STAY ... THEY'VE GOT A MOMENT OR TWO FIRST AND THEN WE'LL ASK THEM TO RESUME THEIR SEATS.

MR. PYM: BE RUNNING OUT OF FILM SOON, YES, OKAY, THERE WE ARE, RIGHT, RIGHT, OKAY.

N. FENN: OKAY GENTLEMEN, THANK YOU VERY MUCH WE CAN NOW PROCEED - IF THE PHOTOGRAPHERS WOULD BE GOOD ENOUGH TO RESUME THEIR SEATS. MR. PYM.

MR. PYM: I HAVE JUST REPORTED TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS THAT ARGENTINE INTRANSIGENCE HAS ONCE AGAIN FRUSTRATED A CONSTRUCTIVE INITIATIVE, THEY HAVE REJECTED PROPOSALS FOR A DIPLOMATIC SOLUTION DEVELOPED BY MR. HAIG AND THE PRESIDENT OF PERU, YESTERDAY I SIGNIFIED THAT WE WERE WILLING TO ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT IMMEDIATELY AN INTERIM AGREEMENT WHICH WOULD PREPARE THE WAY FOR A DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT, SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD HAVE DEMONSTRATED SUBSTANTIAL FLEXIBILITY ON OUR PART, IF IT HAD BEEN ACCEPTED BY THE ARGENTINES THE CEASEFIRE WHICH WOULD HAVE BEEN FIRMLY LINKED TO THE BEGINNING OF ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL COULD HAVE COME INTO EFFECT AS EARLY AS 5 O'CLOCK THIS AFTERNOON, THE INTERIM AGREEMENT UNDER DISCUSSION YESTERDAY INCLUDED THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS, FIRST COMPLETE AND SUPERVISED WITHDRAWAL OF ARGENTINE FORCES FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, MATCHED BY CORRESPONDING WITHDRAWAL OF BRITISH FORCES, SECOND - AN IMMEDIATE CEASEFIRE AS SOON AS ARGENTINA ACCEPTED THE AGREEMENT AND AGREED TO WITHDRAW, THIRD - APPOINTMENT OF A SMALL GROUP OF COUNTRIES ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES WHO WOULD SUPERVISE WITHDRAWAL, UNDERTAKE THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATION IN CONSULTATION WITH THE ISLANDERS ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES AND PERHAPS HELP IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A DEFINITIVE AGREEMENT ON THE STATUS OF THE ISLANDS WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OUR PRINCIPLES OR TO THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS, FOUR - SUSPENSION OF THE EXISTING EXCLUSION ZONES AND THE LISTING OF ECONOMIC SANCTIONS.

WHY THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS ABOUT THE FUTURE. AS YOU KNOW THAT IS A STICKING POINT FOR US. PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE NEGOTIATIONS THE TWO SIDES WOULD SIMPLY HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THE DIFFERENCE THAT EXISTS BETWEEN THEM OVER THE STATUS OF THE ISLANDS. WE HAVE WORKED AND WILL CONTINUE TO WORK POSITIVELY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY FOR A PEACEFUL SOLUTION. OUR AGREEMENT OF THESE IDEAS MAKES THIS ONCE AGAIN ABUNDANTLY CLEAR. I WISH I COULD SAY THAT THE ARGENTINE JUNTA HAD BEEN WORKING IN A SIMILAR SPIRIT, CLEARLY THEY WERE NOT. THE ARGENTINES HAVE SO FAR INSISTED THAT A TRANSFER OF SOVEREIGNTY TO THEM WOULD BE A PRECONDITION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A FINAL SETTLEMENT. THE ARGENTINES TALK MUCH OF THE NEED FOR THE DECOLONISATION OF THE ISLANDS, WHAT THEY APPEAR TO MEAN BY THIS IS COLONISATION BY THEMSELVES. IN ADDITION THE ARGENTINES SEEM NOW TO BE OBSTRUCTING PROGRESS IN ANOTHER BUT EQUALLY FUNDAMENTAL WAY. THEY APPEAR TO BE ASKING FOR A CEASEFIRE WITHOUT ANY CLEAR LINK WITH A WITHDRAWAL OF THEIR INVASION FORCE. TO GRANT THIS WOULD BE TO LEAVE THEM INDEFINITELY IN CONTROL OF PEOPLE AND TERRITORY WHICH THEY HAD ILLEGALLY SEIZED AND TO DENY OURSELVES THE RIGHT OF OUR OWN SELF DEFENCE UNDER ARTICLE 51 OF THE CHARTER. WE HAVE NOT ALLOWED ARGENTINE MILITARY ACTIVITIES TO HALT THE MEASURES WHICH OUR TASK FORCE IS TAKING. WE WILL NOT ALLOW THEIR DIPLOMATIC OBSTRUCTIONISM TO DO SO EITHER, NOR WILL THEY BE ALLOWED TO HALT OUR OWN VIGILANT ENDEAVOURS TO FIND A PEACEFUL WAY OUT OF THE CONFLICT INTO WHICH THEY HAVE LED US. THIS IS WHY I WELCOMED AND CO-OPERATED WHOLEHEARTEDLY WITH THE INITIATIVES OF MR. HAIG AND WHY I NOW WELCOME THE EFFORTS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND AM WORKING CLOSELY WITH HIM. THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS PUT TO BOTH US AND ARGENTINA SOME IDEAS AS A FRAMEWORK AROUND WHICH PROGRESS MIGHT BE MADE. WE HAVE ACCEPTED HIS GENERAL APPROACH. YESTERDAY I SENT HIM A POSITIVE AND SUBSTANTIVE REPLY MAKING CLEAR THAT THE ELEMENTS FOR A SOLUTION PUT FORWARD BY HIM WERE CLOSE TO THOSE WHICH HAD BEEN THE BASIS OF OUR EFFORTS SINCE THE BEGINNING OF THE CRISIS. I MADE CLEAR AT THE SAME TIME THAT IN OUR VIEW RESOLUTION 502 MUST BE IMPLEMENTED WITHOUT DELAY, THAT AN UNCONDITIONAL CEASEFIRE COULD NOT UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BE REGARDED BY US AS A STEP TOWARDS THIS AND THAT THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A CEASEFIRE MUST BE UNAMBIGUOUSLY LINKED TO THE COMMENCEMENT OF ARGENTINE WITHDRAWAL AND MUST BE COMPLETED WITHIN A FIXED NUMBER OF DAYS. IF ONE PHASE OF DIPLOMATIC EFFORT HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO AN END BY ARGENTINE INTRANSIGENCE ANOTHER PHASE IS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN NEW YORK. THE AIM REMAINS THE SAME, TO SECURE EARLY IMPLEMENTATION OF RESOLUTION 502. WE ARE WORKING URGENTLY AND CONSTRUCTIVELY WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL TO THIS END. I HOPE THE ARGENTINES WILL HENCEFORTH SHOW THAT READINESS AND THAT DESIRE TO REACH A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WHICH HAS BEEN EVIDENT SO FAR ONLY ON OUR SIDE. IF THEY DO NOT, THEN LET THEM BE IN NO DOUBT THAT WE SHALL DO WHATEVER MAY BE NECESSARY TO END THEIR UNLAWFUL OCCUPATION. OUR RESOLVE IS UNDIMINISHED. IT REMAINS THE GOVERNMENT'S HIGHEST PRIORITY TO ACHIEVE AN EARLY NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT IF THAT IS HUMANLY POSSIBLE.

JOURNALIST: DOES THE COLLAPSE OF THE PERUVIAN PEACE INITIATIVE MEAN THAT INCREASINGLY A MILITARY SOLUTION IS THE ONLY ONE POSSIBLE?

MR. PYM: NO, IT DOES NOT. THE PRESENT TALKS WITH THE SECRETARY GENERAL BEGAN BEFORE THE UNITED STATES/PERUVIAN PROPOSALS HAD BEEN PUT TO EITHER SIDE, THAT HAS NOW ENDED, THAT PARTICULAR INITIATIVE AND WE'RE NOW WORKING WITH THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY GENERAL, SO IT CERTAINLY DOES NOT MEAN THAT.

KEITH GRAVES: IF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK IS VERY CLOSE TO THE OTHER PLANS AS YOU'VE JUST SAID AND THEY'VE BEEN REJECTED BY THE ARGENTINES, THEN SURELY THERE'S VERY LITTLE CHANCE OF THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK SUCCEEDING?

R. PYM: NOT NECESSARILY. WE HAD ONE SET OF PROPOSALS ORIGINALLY PUT FORWARD BY THE UNITED STATES ON THEIR OWN WHICH WERE REJECTED, THEN THERE WAS ANOTHER SET BY THE UNITED STATES AND PERU AND THEY'VE BEEN REJECTED, NOW THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS COME INTO IT AND THERE ARE A NUMBER OF VARIANTS THAT COULD BE INCORPORATED AND WE MUST SEE WHAT THE ARGENTINE RESPONSE IS, SO CERTAINLY DO NOT SHARE THAT VIEW

KEITH GRAVES: BUT WE STAND BY OUR BASIC DEMANDS, WITHDRAWAL AND OPEN NEGOTIATIONS WITH NO PRECONDITIONS?

N. FENN: THAT MUST BE SO.

N. FENN: MICHAEL BRUNSON.

MICHAEL BRUNSON: FOREIGN SECRETARY, IT SEEMS THAT EVERY TIME YOU PUT A PLAN TO THE ARGENTINIANS THEY, IN THE END, ALWAYS REJECT IT, EITHER ON THE GROUNDS OF WITHDRAWAL OR ON THE QUESTION OF SOVEREIGNTY. HOW MANY MORE PLANS CAN YOU PUT FOR THEM TO REJECT?

MR. PYM: THAT I DON'T KNOW BUT THEY HAVE OF COURSE GIVEN AN INDICATION IN PUBLIC IMPLYING THAT THEY HAVE ACCEPTED THE OUTLINE PUT FORWARD BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL. AS I'VE SAID IN THIS STATEMENT AND I SAID IN THE HOUSE, I AM SCEPTICAL ABOUT THAT BUT WE SHALL SEE BUT I THINK IT'S THE RIGHT WAY TO GO... TO GO AHEAD NOW AND WE MUST SEE WHAT COMES OUT OF IT.

M. BRUNSON: AND IF THEY DO NOT SUCCEED IS OCCUPATION, RE-OCCUPATION OF THE ISLANDS BY FORCE BY BRITAIN INEVITABLE?

MR. PYM: THAT OF COURSE REMAINS AN OPTION ALL THE TIME BUT IT'S THE ONE THING WE'RE TRYING TO AVOID IF WE POSSIBLY CAN BECAUSE WE WANT TO GET A NEGOTIATED SOLUTION. AS I SAID IN THE HOUSE JUST NOW, I AM NOT IN THE BUSINESS OF CLOSING DOORS, I AM IN THE BUSINESS OF OPENING THEM.

N. FENN: JOHN DICKIE.

JOHN DICKIE: (DAILY MAIL) SECRETARY OF STATE, ARE YOU NOW GOING TO ASK FOR GREATER ECONOMIC MEASURES AGAINST ARGENTINA FROM YOUR PARTNERS AND IN PARTICULAR ARE YOU GOING TO CALL ON THE UNITED NATIONS FOR A TOTAL ECONOMIC BLOCKADE AT THE RISK EVEN OF A SOVIET VETO BLOCKING IT?

MR. PYM: I LEAVE THAT AT THE MOMENT IN THE HANDS OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. WE SHALL OF COURSE BE ASKING FOR OUR EUROPEAN PARTNERS TO CONTINUE THEIR SANCTIONS WHEN THEY RUN OUT IN THE MIDDLE OF THIS MONTH. THE UNITED STATES HAS OF COURSE COME DOWN ON OUR SIDE A WEEK OR MORE AGO AND THEY HAVE TAKEN CERTAIN MEASURES, THEY'VE NOT CLOSED THEIR MINDS TO THE POSSIBILITY OF TAKING FURTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES, THAT IS A MATTER FOR THEM, BUT THE GREATER THE SUPPORT WE GET FROM OTHER COUNTRIES IN TAKING OTHER ECONOMIC MEASURES THE BETTER IT WILL BE BECAUSE IT CONTRIBUTES TO THE BUILD UP OF PRESSURE AND I THINK PEOPLE ARE BEGINNING TO REALISE THAT THE ARGENTINE ECONOMY IS IN A PRETTY POOR SHAPE, THEY'VE HAD A DEVALUATION, THEY'VE GOT A LOT OF PROBLEMS THERE IN BORROWING MONEY AND IT IS BEGINNING TO HAVE ITS EFFECT, SO TO THE EXTENT THAT WE CAN GET MORE COUNTRIES PLAYING THEIR PART IN THAT THE BETTER IT WILL BE.

ANTHONY BEVANS: (TIMES) IN VIEW OF THE FACT THAT YOU TOLD THE HOUSE THAT IT WAS DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE THAT ARGENTINA COULD ACCEPT THE UNITED NATIONS PROPOSALS, IS THIS PRESS CONFERENCE DESIGNED TO SOFTEN UP WORLD OPINION FOR AN INVASION NEXT WEEK?

MR. PYM: CERTAINLY NOT, IT IS TO DESCRIBE EXACTLY WHAT THE BRITISH POSITION IS AND I DON'T THINK I DID SAY IN THE HOUSE WHAT I THINK I UNDERSTOOD YOU TO SAY BY MY REMARKS, WHAT I SAID WAS I WAS DOUBTFUL WHETHER THEY HAVE ACCEPTED WHAT THEY HAD IMPLIED THEY HAD ACCEPTED BECAUSE SO FAR THEY'D SHOWN NO SIGN EITHER OF AGREEING TO WITHDRAW OR TO LEAVING THE ULTIMATE MATTER OF SOVEREIGNTY OPEN. IT REMAINS TO BE SEEN.

N. FENN: ROSEMARY WRIGHT. COULD YOU WAIT FOR THE MIKE.
ROSEMARY.

ROSEMARY WRIGHT: MR. PYM, DO YOU ACTUALLY BELIEVE THAT THERE CAN BE NEGOTIATIONS AT THE UN OR WOULD ANY ... WOULD IT JUST BE LIMITED TO DISCUSSIONS?

MR. PYM: THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL, I THINK THAT IS THE BASIS UPON WHICH IT IS PROCEEDING AND HE IS OF COURSE BRINGING IN ANYBODY AND ANY PEOPLE TO HELP HIM THAT HE WANTS, THAT'S THE BASIS OF IT AND I FEEL THAT THAT'S A VERY HELPFUL WAY TO PROCEED.

ROSEMARY WRIGHT: WOULD HE HAVE TO HAVE ANY PACKAGE THAT HE CAME UP WITH RATIFIED BY THE SECURITY COUNCIL?

MR. PYM: NOT NECESSARILY I WOULDN'T HAVE THOUGHT.

N. FENN: JERRY THOMPSON.

JERRY THOMPSON: (MASON A.P.) MR. SECRETARY, DO YOU SEE A FURTHER
ROLE FOR MR. HAIG IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS?

MR. PYM: IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE I THINK IT'S DIFFICULT TO SEE
THAT, BUT HE IS JUST AS ENTHUSIASTIC FOR A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT
AS I AM AND INDEED EVERYBODY IS AND I KNOW THAT HE HOLDS HIMSELF
IN READINESS TO PLAY ANY PART IN THAT THAT MAY BE ASKED OF HIM
OR THAT HE MAY THINK APPROPRIATE IN THE FUTURE.

SEAN KELLY: (IRISH RADIO AND TELEVISION) MR. PYM, O WPDDEEE
I WONDER IF THERE WILL BE A STAY ON FURTHER MILITARY HOSTILITIES
WHILE THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S PLAN IS CONSIDERED?

MR. PYM: POSITION AT THE MOMENT IS THAT WE ARE SECURING
AND PROTECTING THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE, IT'S BRITISH TERRITORY,
THERE ARE BRITISH TROOPS ON THAT ISLAND AND THAT IS WHAT
WE ARE DOING AT THE PRESENT TIME.

SEAN KELLY: WILL THERE BE
THE FALKLAND ISLANDS?

MR. PYM: NOT NECESSARILY, IF THERE ARE FURTHER BOMBING RAIDS ON
USING IT AGAIN AND THEN COULD TAKE
OUR FORCES WE WOULD BOMB IT AGAIN,
USE ANY MORE MILITARY FORCE THAN IS NOW AIRFIELD OR START
WISH TO DO THAT BUT WE MUST SECURE AND KEEP IT TO ATTACK
EXCLUSION ZONE.

SEAN KELLY: ONE FINAL QUESTION, COULD I ASK YOU DON'T
PERHAPS YOU'RE ASKING A LITTLE TOO MUCH OF THE AR. THE TOTAL
GALTIERI, IN POLITICAL TERMS TO RULE OUT THE CONCESSION
SOVEREIGNTY IN THE INTERIM PERIOD, THE WITHDRAWAL OF
ARGENTINE TROOPS, BECAUSE HIS POSITION WOULD GO, THE PRESIDENT
LOSE HIS POWER AND LOSE HIS POSITION IF HE CONCEDED TO BRITISH
DEMANDS?

MR. PYM: WELL, YOU MAY BE ON THE ARGENTINE SIDE BUT I MUST TELL YOU
THAT WE CERTAINLY ARE NOT ASKING ANYTHING TOO MUCH OF THE
ARGENTINES, THEY INVADDED, THEY'RE THE AGGRESSOR, THEY'VE PUT
THEIR FORCES ON TO THAT ISLAND AND WHEN THE RESOLUTION 502 WAS
PASSED THEY USED IT TO REINFORCE THAT ISLAND, THOUSANDS OF
TROOPS THEY POURED INTO IT, THEY MUST BE GETTING RATHER WORRIED
AT THE PRESENT TIME, SORRY ABOUT THAT, BUT IT CAN'T BE HELPED,
I CERTAINLY AM NOT ASKING TOO MUCH OF THEM, THE ONLY THING THEY
OUGHT TO DO IS TO GET OFF THAT ISLAND.

(PLEASE READ FIRST LINE ABOVE PARA 'SIDE')

SEAN KELLY: DON'T YOU AGREE THAT HE WOULD LOSE POWER IF HE GAVE IN?

MR. PYM: HE'S HAD ENOUGH.

H. FENN: HE'S HAD ENOUGH, YES, THE GENTLEMAN BEHIND.

SECRETARY OF STATE: WELL, NOW YOU HAVE
BUT, SLIPPING AWAY AND THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT, NOW YOU HAVE
JUST SAID THAT YOU ARE TRYING TO AVOID A RECAPTURE OF THE ISLANDS,
THAT'S THE LAST THING YOU WANT TO DO BUT WHAT SORT OF TIME DO WE
HAVE LEFT?

MR. PYM: WELL, THAT REMAINS TO BE SEEN DOESN'T IT? I HOPE THAT
THEY'LL GO OFF THE ISLAND WITHOUT ANY ESCALATION OF MILITARY
ACTIVITY AS I'VE SAID BEFORE AND THAT'S WHAT WE MUST HOPE FOR AND
I WILL GO ON WORKING FOR THAT AND I THINK THE PRESSURES, BOTH
ECONOMIC PRESSURES ARE HAVING THEIR EFFECT AND I THINK THE
MILITARY PRESSURES ARE HAVING THEIR EFFECT AND IT MAY BE, I DON'T
KNOW, WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS FOR ALL I KNOW, OR THE NEXT WEEK
OR SO, THAT THE ARGENTINES WILL CHANGE THEIR MIND, WE'LL HAVE
TO SEE.

N. FENN: MALCOLM RUTHERFORD.

MALCOLM RUTHERFORD, FOREIGN SECRETAR, THE TIMING OF THE
ARGENTINA'S RESPONSE TO THE UN, YOU SAID IN DUE COURSE, COULD
YOU GIVE SOME INDICATION OF WHAT YOU EXPECT DUE COURSE TO MEAN,
24 HOURS - 48 - OR....

MR. PYM: THEY INDICATED PUBLICLY YESTERDAY BY WHAT THEY STATED
THAT THEY HAD ALREADY GIVEN ONE BUT I AM RATHER DOUBTFUL WHETHER
THEY HAVE, IN FACT I DON'T THINK THEY HAVE AND NATURALLY I
HAVEN'T BEEN WE HAVEN'T BEEN INFORMED THAT THEY HAVE BUT I
THINK THE SECRETARY GENERAL IS AWAITING NOW FOR WHAT THEIR
COMMENTS ARE ON HIS PROPOSALS, SO WE'LL HAVE TO SEE.

N. FENN: PETER JENKINS.

PETER JENKINS: (GUARDIAN) CAN YOU SAY WHETHER MR. HAIG WAS
ENTIRELY SATISFIED WITH THE BRITISH RESPONSE TO THE PERUVIAN
PROPOSALS?

MR. PYM: YES, HE WAS, IT WAS A PERUVIAN PROPOSAL ORIGINALLY,
THEN THERE WAS A CONSIDERABLE MEXICAN AMERICAN INPUT INTO IT AND
WE PUT SOME PRACTICAL IDEAS INTO IT AND IT THEN WENT TO PERU
AND THE PERUVIANS WERE HAPPY WITH IT BUT THEN THEY PUT IT TO THE
ARGENTINES AND THEY REFUSED.

JOHN LEWIS: (BIRMINGHAM POST) SECRETARY OF STATE, CAN YOU HELP
US TO THE EXTENT OF CLARIFYING WHETHER THE UNITED NATIONS
FRAMEWORK DOES IN FACT CONCEIVE A DIRECT LINK BETWEEN THE
CEASEFIRE AND WITHDRAWAL AND WHETHER THERE'S ANY TIMING
ATTACHED TO IT?

MR. PYM: THERE WILL HAVE TO BE THAT DIRECT LINKAGE, YES, BOTH
A CEASEFIRE AND A WITHDRAWAL WERE OF COURSE PART OF THE PROPOSITION
THAT WAS PUT BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL BUT AS I MADE CLEAR THE
TWO THINGS HAVE TO GO SIMULTANEOUSLY.

SECRETARY OF STATE RECOMMENDING THAT YOU HAVE
OUT, SLIPPING AWAY AND THAT TIME WAS RUNNING OUT. NOW YOU HAVE
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TWO THINGS HAVE TO GO SIMULTANEOUSLY.

H. FENN: PATRICK KEATLEY.

PATRICK KEATLEY: (GUARDIAN) IN ALL THIS SOVEREIGNTY APPEARS TO BE THE REEF ON NEGOTIATIONS ARE STRIKING . . . STICKING. IS IT POSSIBLE THIS ISSUE COULD BE SHIFTED TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE. I KNOW THAT'S AN OLD ONE AND I KNOW ARGENTINA HAS ON OCCASIONS REFUSED TO GO THERE BUT IT NOW BECOMES SO IMPORTANT THAT IT MIGHT SAVE FACE, COULD IT NOT BE PART OF A PACKAGE?

MR. PYM: YES, WE HAVE SAID IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS, IN THE DEBATE A WEEK AGO YESTERDAY, THAT THIS IS A POSSIBILITY THAT IS NOT EXCLUDED, WE HAVE NOT SHUT OFF THAT OPTION, OF COURSE IT COULD GO TO THE INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE BUT WHEN WE'VE TRIED BEFORE, AS YOU KNOW, ARGENTINA WOULD NOT TURN UP OR WOULD NOT TAKE PART IN THE PROCEEDINGS BUT LET ME REMIND YOU AGAIN ABOUT THE SOVEREIGNTY QUESTION, THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE TWO SIDES IN THIS - THAT THE ARGENTINES SAY IT IS THEIR TERRITORY AND THERE'S NO DOUBT ABOUT IT AND THEY'RE GOING TO STICK TO THAT AND IT'S NOT UP FOR NEGOTIATION WHATSOEVER, THAT'S THE END OF THE MATTER, THE BRITISH POSITION - WE HAVE A CLAIM TO THE SOVEREIGNTY OF THOSE ISLANDS WHICH WE BELIEVE IS TOTALLY VALID, WE HAVE HAD THE POSSESSION OF THEM FOR 149 YEARS, AND WE'VE ADMINISTERED THEM AND LOOKED AFTER THE PEOPLE THERE ALL THAT TIME BUT WE SAY WE RECOGNISE THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE A CLAIM, WHICH WE BELIEVE TO BE INVALID, BUT WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT IT EXISTS AND WHEN THE NEGOTIATORS SIT DOWN WE SAY, ALL RIGHT, IT'S BRITISH TERRITORY SOVEREIGN TERRITORY BUT WE'RE QUITE PREPARED TO ALTER THAT STATUS IF THAT IS WHAT THE ISLANDERS PREFER OR IF THERE IS SOME OTHER ORGANISATION OR ARRANGEMENT OR FORM OF GOVERNMENT THAT THE ISLANDERS WOULD ACCEPT OR WOULD PREFER, WE WON'T STAND IN THEIR WAY, SO THAT IS AN OPEN AND AN HONOURABLE AND A REASONABLE POSITION AS COMPARED WITH THE ABSOLUTE HARD LINE ON THE OTHER SIDE. NOW THAT HARD LINE ON THE OTHER SIDE HAS GOT TO ALTER SO THAT A NEGOTIATION FOR THE FUTURE CAN TAKE PLACE ON A SENSIBLE BASIS.

H. FENN: DAVID MCNEIL.

DAVID MCNEIL: FOREIGN SECRETARY, WOULD YOU BE PREPARED TO TALK TO MR. COSTA MENDEZ OR ANY OTHER ARGENTINE LEADER IF THAT WERE SUGGESTED BY THE SECRETARY GENERAL?

IT'S VERY COMPLICATED, WITH GALTIERI'S POSITION, COSTA MENDEZ POSITION, THE JUNTA'S POSITION AND ALL THE GENERALS AND THE ADMIRALS, IT'S ALL VERY COMPLICATED AND I THINK IT'S MUCH BETTER THAT SOMEBODY ELSE TALKS TO THEM AND ALSO TALKS TO US.

N. FENN: THE PERSISTENT STANDARD.

JOURNALIST: YOU SAID JUST A MOMENT AGO THAT YOU'RE TRYING TO AVOID ANY MILITARY ESCALATION BUT ARE YOU REALLY SAYING THAT BECAUSE POSSIBLY THE LOSS OF THREE SEA HARRIERS AND THE SHAFIELD HAS UNDERMINED THE TASK FORCE MILITARY POSITION AS IT STANDS?

MR. PYM: IT CERTAINLY HAS NOT UNDERMINED ANYTHING AND WE ARE SECURING AND HAVE CONTROL OF THAT TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE AND I WANT TO TELL YOU BECAUSE I HEARD FROM THE CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF THIS MORNING WHAT YOU WOULD EXPECT TO BE THE CASE, THAT THE MORALE AND BEARING OF ALL OUR TROOPS IN THE TASK FORCE ARE ABSOLUTELY FIRST CLASS AND AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL AND I WANT TO GIVE THAT ABSOLUTELY CLEAR ASSURANCE.

N. FENN: YES, SIR?

JOURNALIST: MR. PYM, IS THIS A STALEMATE, ARGENTINA INSISTING ON SOVEREIGNTY AS A PRECONDITION, BRITAIN INSISTING ON A WITHDRAWAL, IS THERE ANY IDEA ... HAS ANY IDEA BEEN PUT FORWARD THAT CAN 'BROKE' THIS STALEMATE AT ALL?

MR. PYM: NO, AND IT WOULD BE QUITE UNREASONABLE FOR THE ARGENTINES TO DO ANYTHING OTHER THAN WITHDRAW THEIR FORKES FROM AN ISLAND WHERE THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO BE AND IF THERE IS TO BE A NEGOTIATION WHICH WE'RE COMPLETELY READY FOR, INDEED WE WERE ENGAGED IN BEFORE THIS AGGRESSION TOOK PLACE, THEN THAT NEGOTIATION MUST BE ON THE BASIS THAT THE END RESULT IS OPEN, THAT MUST BE SO, OTHERWISE THERE'S NO POINT IN HAVING A NEGOTIATION, THERE'S NOTHING TO COMPROMISE ON, WHAT'S THE POINT OF HAVING A LONG-TERM NEGOTIATION IF ONE SIDE SAYS THEY'RE NOT PREPARED TO MOVE FROM ONE POSITION? I THINK THAT OUR ATTITUDE AND APPROACH TO IT HAS BEEN AND REMAINS COMPLETELY REASONABLE AND WHOLLY IN KEEPING WITH THE LINE THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAS TAKEN FOR YEARS AND YEARS, KN THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COUNTRIES THAT HAVE BEEN INDEPENDENT IN CONTINENTS ALL ROUND THE WORLD.

N. FENN: BRIDGET BLOOM.

BRIDGET BLOOM: (FINANCIAL TIMES) MR. PYM, I WONDER IF YOU COULD COMMENT, YOU SAID THAT YOU EXPECTED THE ARGENTINES TO WITHDRAW WITHIN A FIXED NUMBER

MR. PYM: ... WHERE IS SHE, I CAN'T SEE YOU

BRIDGET BLOOM: HERE ... SORRY WITHIN A FIXED NUMBER OF DAYS - YOU SAID YOU WANTED THE ARGENTINES TO WITHDRAW, COULD YOU COMMENT ON THAT AND COULD YOU ALSO COMMENT ON WHO MIGHT SUPERVISE THE WITHDRAWAL

MR. PYM: WELL, THERE MUST BE A NUMBER OF DAYS BECAUSE ONE DOESN'T WANT IT TO DRAG ON FOR LONGER THAN IS NECESSARY, IT MIGHT BE DONE IN SEVEN DAYS OR TEN DAYS, I DON'T THINK THE ACTUAL NUMBER MATTERS, BUT THERE OUGHT TO BE A CLEAR PERIOD OF TIME BY WHEN IT'S GOT TO BE 2XP COMPLETE AND THEN THAT WITHDRAWAL MUST BE VERIFIED AND THERE ARE A VARIETY OF WAYS IN WHICH THAT COULD BE DONE, ASI'VE SAID IN WHAT I SPOKE TO YOU ABOUT AT THE OUTSET, THE CONCEPT, THE LATEST CONCEPT THAT WAS TURNED DOWN WAS A GROUP OF COUNTRIES ACCEPTABLE TO BOTH SIDES SHOULD UNDERTAKE THAT ROLE BUT OBVIOUSLY THERE ARE OTHER WAYS OF DOING IT, I DON'T THINK THE MECHANISM OF THAT MATTERS SO MUCH AS MAKING SURE THAT IT IS DONE ON A BASIS THAT'S ACCEPTABLE.

N. FENN: NORMAN KIRKHAM.

NORMAN KIRKHAM: (SUNDAY TELEGRAPH) WOULD THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAY IF THERE IS NOW A GROWING POSSIBILITY OF ATTACK ON ANY ARGENTINE MAINLAND BASE TO PROTECT THE TASK FORCE FROM THE VULNERABILITY TO MISSILES?

MR. PYM: NO, I WOULDN'T SAY THAT AND I WOULD AS I'VE SAID ALREADY, WE DON'T WANT TO SEE ANY ESCALATION OF MILITARY ACTIVITY BUT AT THIS POINT I WOULD NOT EXCLUDE ANY POSSIBILITY WHATSOEVER, THAT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT BECAUSE AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE OTHER CIRCUMSTANCES MAY APPLY. NOW I DO NOT WANT YOU TO READ INTO THAT ANYTHING OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT I MUST KEEP THE OPTIONS OPEN, ALL OPTIONS OPEN - BUT LET ME ASSURE YOU AT THE MOMENT WE ARE ONLY CONCERNED WITH PRESERVING THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE AND THERE'S NO OTHER THOUGHT IN OUR HEADS AND I ONLY REPLY AS I HAVE BECAUSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT'S GOING TO HAPPEN THIS WEEKEND, NEXT WEEK, NEXT MONTH, HOW LONG IT WILL GO ON FOR, WHETHER IT'S SUDDENLY GOING TO END AND IN THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES OF COURSE IT WOULDN'T BE RIGHT FOR ME AT THIS STAGE TO EXCLUDE ANYTHING.

PETER RIDDLE: (FINANCIAL TIMES) FOLLOWING ON FROM THAT QUESTION, IN THE HOUSE YOU WERE ASKED ABOUT THIS POINT AND YOU SAID IN REPLY THAT DIFFICULT DECISIONS MIGHT COME IF THE NEGOTIATIONS FAILED. DOES THAT MEAN THAT WHILE THE NEGOTIATION IS GOING ON OUR SOLE CONCERN IS FOR ENFORCING THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE AND ANY MILITARY ESCALATION WOULD FOLLOW THAT?

MR. PYM: WELL, BASICALLY THAT IS SO AT THE PRESENT MOMENT BUT, AGAIN, I'M NOT GOING TO SHUT OFF ANY OPTION BECAUSE THAT WOULD NOT BE RIGHT REMEMBERING THAT OUR FIRST CONSIDERATION MUST BE THE SAFETY AND SECURITY OF OUR OWN FORCES, THAT IS A VERY HIGH PRIORITY INDEED AND WE'VE GOT TO TAKE THAT INTO CONSIDERATION AT ALL TIMES.

N. FENN: THE GENTLEMAN - IN FRONT.

JOURNALIST: YES, SECRETARY, COULD I ASK YOU TO REPEAT SOMETHING THAT YOU SAID SEVERAL TIMES SEVERAL WEEKS AGO BUT HAVE NOT SAID IN RECENT DAYS, WHICH IS THE QUESTION OF THE SELF DETERMINATION OF THE ISLANDERS BEING PARAMOUNT, IS THAT STILL THE BRITISH POSITION?

MR. PYM: YES, IT IS BASICALLY. I SAID IN MY STATEMENT, WHAT I JUST READ OUT TO YOU THAT POSSIBLY THE GROUP OF COUNTRIES MIGHT BE ABLE TO HELP IN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A DEFINITIVE SETTLEMENT WITHOUT PREJUDICE TO OUR PRINCIPLES OR THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS AND THEIR POSITION IS CLEARLY SET OUT IN THE UNITED NATIONS CHARTER WHICH HAS GUIDED US ALL THE WAY THROUGH AND OF COURSE WE'VE GOT THEM IN MIND AND WE WANT THEIR ELECTED REPRESENTATIVES TO BE CONSULTED IN ANY INTERIM ARRANGEMENT THAT MAY BE MADE WHILE THE LONG-TERM NEGOTIATIONS ARE GOING ON.

DAVID SPANIER: (IRN) DO YOU HAVE ANY INFORMATION, SIR, ABOUT THE SITUATION OF THE ISLANDERS THEMSELVES?

MR. PYM: NO, WE HAVE VERY, VERY LITTLE, WHAT EMERGES EITHER BY LETTER OR RUMOUR, WE HAVEN'T GOT ANY DIRECT INFORMATION ABOUT IT AND SOME OF THE REPORTS WE GET - WE'RE NOT ABSOLUTELY SURE HOW CORRECT THEY MAY BE, SO THE ANSWER IS I'M AFRAID WE'VE GOT VERY LITTLE INFORMATION ON THAT AND ONE IS WORRIED ABOUT THE ISLANDERS, ALL THE TIME ONE REALISES THAT THERE THEY ARE IN THESE VERY UNATTRACTIVE CONDITIONS UNDER THE BOOT OF THE INVADER BUT I'M AFRAID WE HAVEN'T GOT HARD INFORMATION.

W. FENW: EKEITH GRAVES.

(BREAK IN TRANSMISSION FOR TWO MINUTES)

JOURNALIST: IN OTHER WORDS WOULD YOU ACCEPT FOR EXAMPLE UN TRUSTEESHIP WHICH WOULD PUT THE ISSUE OF SOVREIGNTY BEYOND DISPUTE INITIALLY WHILE YOU HAVE AN INTERIM ADMINISTRATION?

MR. PYM: I WOULD NOT EXCLUDE THAT.

JOURNALIST: BUT WOULD YOU POSITIVELY SUPPORT IT?

MR. PYM: WELL, I MIGHT EVEN DO THAT, I MEAN IT'S JUST AN OPTION THAT'S OPEN AT THE MOMENT, LET'S SEE HOW WE GET ON, WE WANT A REPLY FIRST OF ALL FROM THE ARGENTINES, WHAT ARE THEY GOING TO DO ABOUT IT? HOW ARE THEY GOING TO RESPOND? WHAT I'M SAYING TO YOU IS THAT I'VE GOT NO HANG UP ABOUT THAT, THAT'S AN OPTION THAT COULD BE PURSUED.

AND THEN CHRISTOPHER FORBES-ADAMS.

MR. BEVIN: HOW LONG ARE YOU WILLING TO LET THIS CRISIS DRAG ON FOR?

MR. PYM: THAT'S UP TO THE ARGENTINES ISN'T IT?

MR. BEVIN: WITH THE TASK FORCE IN THE SOUTH ATLANTIC YOU'RE WILLING TO

?

MR. PYM: THAT'S UP TO THE ARGENTINES.

MR. BEVIN: FOR A MONTH, TWO MONTHS?

MR. PYM: WE'VE SAID THAT THEY ARE GOING TO LEAVE THAT ISLAND.

MR. BEVIN: A MONTH - TWO MONTHS?

MR. PYM: I WON'T PUT ANY TIMESCALE ON IT, OUR OBJECTIVE IS QUITE CLEAR.

N. FENN: MR. FORBES-ADAMS

MR. FORBES-ADAMS: SECRETARY OF STATE, COULD YOU SAY IF THERE ARE ANY PLANS, YOUR ENVIAGE OF PERHAPS GOING BACK TO NEW YORK TO SEE THE SECRETARY GENERAL IN THE NEAR FUTURE?

MR. PYM: OH I COULD, NO T IMMEDIATELY, I'M ACTUALLY GOING OFF TO BRUSSELS TOMORROW AND SUNDAY WITH THE EUROPEAN FOREIGN MINISTERS, BUT I WOULD IF NECESSARY, IF IT WAS APPROPRIATE, IF IT WAS GOING TO BE HELPFUL, I COULD GO BACK BUT I'VE NO PLANS TO AT THE MOMENT.

N. FENN: ROSEMARY - REUTERS.

ROSEMARY: MR. PYM, YOU SAID EARLIER YOU WERE IN THE BUSINESS OF OPENING DOORS, SPAIN THE KING OF SPAIN HAS OFFERED SPANISH MEDIATION, HAVE YOU BEEN IN TOUCH WITH SPAIN TO TAKE UP THAT OFFER?

MR. PYM: I HAVEN'T PERSONALLY BEEN DIRECTLY IN TOUCH WITH THE KING OF SPAIN, OR THE GOVERNMENT OF SPAIN BUT MESSAGES I HAVE RECEIVED FROM THEM.

N. FENN: ONE LAST QUESTION, THE GENTLEMAN BEHIND.

JOURNALIST: MY QUESTION IS SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE ONE ASKED BY BRIDGET BLOOM AND THAT IS IN NUMBER 'C' THE SMALL GROUP OF COUNTRIES, DID THE PERUVIAN PROPOSAL CONTAIN ANY DETAILS ABOUT THE MECHANISM FOR THE NEGOTIATION AND PARTICULARLY WAS THERE ANY DEADLINE PUT ON THE TIME FRAME FOR THE NEGOTIATIONS THAT HAD BEEN REPORTED?

MR. PYM: THERE WAS NO DETAIL ABOUT THE FRAMEWORK OF IT, THAT WAS LEFT FAIRLY OPEN, THERE WAS A CONCEPT OF TRYING TO REACH AN AGREEMENT WITHIN A LIMITED SPACE OF TIME BUT QUITE A LONG SPACE OF TIME, I WOULDN'T WANT TO BE MORE SPECIFIC THAN THAT, BECAUSE I THINK WHEN THIS TRAUMA IS OVER, FOR THOSE PEOPLE LIVING ON THE ISLAND IT WILL TAKE THEM SOME TIME TO RE-ESTABLISH THEIR LIFE AND SOME TIME TO WEIGH UP WHAT HAS HAPPENED AND TO COME TO ANY KIND OF A CONCLUSION WHAT THEY FEEL ABOUT THE FUTURE, AND I THINK COMING BACK TO KEITH GRAVES' POINT, I THINK IT WILL TAKE UP TO SOME MONTHS I WOULD VISUALISE, BEFORE IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THEM TO FORM A VIEW ABOUT WHAT ACTUALLY THEY WOULD PREFER.

N. FENN: FOREIGN SECRETARY- LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THANKX.

MR. PYM: THANK YOU.

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