

Prime Minister

FALKLAND ISLANDS ENQUIRY

1. In the House on 8th April, you said this:-

"We are considering exactly what form that review or enquiry should take and what its timing should be. I am quite happy to consult on that matter. What I want to make clear is that we think that some form of review or enquiry is advisable under the circumstances, and we shall consult later."

2. Richard Luce telephoned on 11th April having had a long talk to Peter Carrington. They both feel, very strongly, that any Enquiry upon which you decide should not be conducted either by a Select Committee of our House, nor by a Select Committee of both Houses.

3. Richard suggested that the Enquiry might be conducted by Alec Home, Cledwyn Hughes and John Hunt. I said that although these names carried very great authority, they would be likely to be perceived as being highly 'establishment' figures, with a special interest in protecting the Foreign Office. I said there could be some merit in having a Judge to preside over any Enquiry even though, for obvious reasons, much or all of the Enquiry would have to be conducted in private.

4. I gave Richard Luce an undertaking that if it appeared that the Government was moving in the direction of a Select Committee, then before any final decision was taken, he should have the opportunity to put his strongly held contrary views to you direct.

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5. Richard Luce added one interesting footnote, of which you probably know already. Senor Costa Mendez was, apparently, his country's Foreign Minister in 1968, when George Brown was our Foreign Secretary. Richard has come across a Minute, prepared by George Brown's Private Secretary in which George Brown made it crystal clear to Senor Costa Mendez that Britain did not give a damn about the Falkland Islands.

6. Apparently the rule about access to the papers of previous Administrations extends, officially, even to documents of such potential importance as this one; could it be that the Argentine Foreign Minister believes what was said to him by his British counterpart 14 years ago?

13th April 1982



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