

Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

April 30, 1982

The Briefing Room

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Q 2:30 --

MR. SPEAKES: Thank you for thanking me.

Q And the reason we seem to be shouting is you gave us a limit of ten minutes --

MR. SPEAKES: I understand.

Q See? And we really thought that we ought to be able to develop some of this. It's actually very important to carry the story.

MR. SPEAKES: We are all interested in better communications.

Q That's why we were shouting at him.

MR. SPEAKES: Good.

Q At them, at them.

MR. SPEAKES: Shouting is acceptable.

Q I have a notice to the press, that's being faxed now, of telephone comments on the President's speech last night as of 11:15 A.M. today. I'll give you the highlights, and you'll get it in a written

THE WHITE HOUSE
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12:11 P.M. EDT

MR. SPEAKES: The President today is announcing the appointment of Roger B. Porter to be a member of the President's Commission on White House Fellowships. Mr. Porter is currently Deputy Assistant to the President for Policy Development and Director of the White House Office of Policy Development.

Today at noon -- the President has just left to go have lunch with the Midwest editors and broadcasters, and we'll have a writing pool and photo coverage. Looking for brief remarks and Q&A. We'll go over there about 12:45 p.m.

At 1:30 p.m. Governor John Spellman of Washington is coming into the Oval Office for a meeting to discuss economic problems in the State of Washington.

At 1:45 p.m., meeting with the poster children for Better Hearing and Speech Month.

And, finally, at 2:30 p.m. a meeting with the Advisory Council for Small and Minority Business in the Roosevelt Room. Writing pool and photo coverage.

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And the President has invited Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser to meet with him in Washington on May 17th. During their visit the President and the Prime Minister will discuss international developments of mutual concern. Their last meeting in Washington was July 30th.

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format so you don't have to worry about taking it. But this is -- this is the greatest outpouring of public support -- rather the public registering its support in favor of the President of any televised speech he's given.

As of 11:15 a.m., 4,397 in favor; 760 that issued -- made comments not in favor.

Q What about -- were there any neutral that were sort of --
MR. SPEAKES: I'm sure there are, but we don't have that total now.

But this is, according to the Comments Office where the volunteers work, the heaviest response to any presidential statement --

Q Do you know what has been the past --

Q In history?

MR. SPEAKES: -- on television in the Reagan Administration.

Q What are they in favor of?

Q Were these phone calls, or telegrams?

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Phone calls, or telegrams?

MR. SPEAKES: This is phone calls.

The telegrams -- and many of them are not yet open -- the telegrams, as of 11:00 a.m., are 2,126 favorable; 340 not favorable.

Q Are we going to get that -- update that later in the day?

Q Were there any candygrams? (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: Why don't we look for about a -- we'll do a 4:00 p.m. update, if that will suit you.

Q What are they in favor of?

Q Sweets?

MR. SPEAKES: They registered a favorable response to the President's message last night. We have a breakdown on budget cuts, defense spending, tax cuts, feeling toward Democratic leadership, and the constitutional amendment on the balanced budget.

Q So they spoke on each of these subjects?

MR. SPEAKES: Not all of them spoke on each subject, but there were -- we do have a breakout. Those who were --

Q Will we get that?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, you will get that shortly, as soon as we run it off.

Q Do you consider this poll a representative sampling of the feeling across the United States?

MR. SPEAKES: Good indication.

Q Larry, have the British made any request for material assistance for their activities in the South Atlantic?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, I guess we open with the statement on the Falklands. You've heard what Secretary Haig said this morning.

Secretary Haig or the State Department -- will be doing a background briefing by a senior official of the State Department at 2:30 p.m. in the --

MR. ALLIN: Dean Acheson.

MR. SPEAKES: -- Dean Acheson Room at the State Department. And I think other than waiting on that and whatever the President may say in response to questions in the East Room, I probably should defer all --

Q How about giving us a rundown on what the President's done so far today in connection with all these actions?

MR. SPEAKES: On the --

Q Falklands.

MR. SPEAKES: -- Falklands?

Q And of the British position -- you know, the support of the British and why he took that stance.

MR. SPEAKES: The President has had a number of discussions over the past several

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weeks with his advisors, the Secretary of State and Bill Clark and others on the National Security Council in regard to the matter in the Falklands. He has this morning received his normal written version of his intelligence update. Other than that, we do not necessarily confirm the subject matter in a National Security Council meeting. I would take slight issue with the wire stories which called it an emergency session. This was a previously scheduled session.

Q Was there a National Security Council?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes, there was one at 9:30 a.m.

Q It was previously scheduled?

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, yes.

Q Then why wasn't it on his schedule?

Q Why wasn't it on the schedule we got?

MR. SPEAKES: It was error on the part of the Press Office staff for not getting it on the schedule that went out last night. It was on the one that was published at 5:00 yesterday afternoon.

Q It was?

Q It was?

MR. SPEAKES: The one that was circulated within the White House yesterday. It was not on the one that was put out for the Press.

Q Oh, well, there you are.

MR. SPEAKES: Through an error. So, it was not one that -- it was a regular scheduled meeting.

Q Is there another one scheduled this afternoon?

MR. SPEAKES: Not that I know of. I don't believe so.

Q Has the President made any personal communications now with any of the principals from either of the countries? If early in the crisis he did, he felt at this point it was no use then?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think he would put it in those terms, but he has not made any direct communication with the principals. He did talk with Tip O'Neill.

Q Larry, do you remember near the tail end of the remarks that the President made in the photo session, he made a reference to the Argentine Foreign Minister being at the U.N. and some of us were unsure what followed that. Did he then express the hope that they could work something out? Was that --

MR. SPEAKES: Bruce, I didn't hear that part. I think I was chasing a cameraman who climbed up on the chair in the back of the -- (laughter) -- Cabinet Room. (Laughter.)

Q What he said was that is seems obvious no one wants --

Q No, no. That part I know.

Q What are you --

MR. SPEAKES: I did not get that drift.

Q The President's definitely committed not to send troops anywhere in the world, isn't he?

MR. SPEAKES: The statement, I believe, addressed that.

Q Larry, the statement by Secretary Haig said we wouldn't have our forces directly involved. Whether or not we'll be indirectly involved -- is that possible?

MR. SPEAKES: As I say, I would rather defer any discussion of that because we've got the two principal architects of Reagan foreign policy in question and answer sessions today.

Q This position was sent to the British and the Argentinians today?

MR. SPEAKES: You mean the announcement of it?

Q In advance? In advance?

MR. SPEAKES: Once again, I think we ought to wait until these question and answer -- certainly, we're in full consultation with both governments and I think they would be aware of what we were doing.

Q Larry, did you say the President attended this NSC meeting?

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, yes.

Q What about Americans in Argentina?

MR. SPEAKES: Not only attended, presided over it.

Q Larry, what about Americans in Argentina? Are they being told to go home or what?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't believe there's any notice that's gone to them.

Q What's the coverage arrangements on the President's remarks up there and might he have something about the Falklands in his opening statement? Did you say?

MR. SPEAKES: I did not look for anything on the Falklands in the opening statement, although, he's not speaking from a prepared text or did not plan to last I talked with him.

Q Uh-oh. (Laughter.)

Q Will the photo op be able to record the Q and A as well as the --

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, yes. Sure.

Q It'll be PA'd?

MR. SPEAKES: It'll be PA'd in here. Everything --

Q The Q and A, too?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Great.

Q The Q and A coming in here?

Q The Q and A, too?

MR. SPEAKES: More Q and A and less remarks.

Q Larry, what about Americans in Argentina? Has our embassy there been instructed to do anything, to have them register or is there any development there?

MR. SPEAKES: He just asked. Were you plugged in and didn't hear? (Laughter.) I don't know of any notice that's gone to American citizens there. Barry?

Q Another subject?

MR. SPEAKES: Yes.

Q Poland is expected to lift martial law on Sunday. Will the economic sanctions against the Soviets continue after that time?

MR. SPEAKES: That long thing I had yesterday and didn't bring it. (Laughter.) You got it.

MR. ALLIN: I don't think we're familiar with that report, Barry. A news report?

Q Front page, New York Times, yesterday.

MR. ALLIN: No, they did not do that. They released a thousand people, a thousand detainees. They said they would do that this weekend. They did not say anything about lifting martial law. That was addressed at length yesterday at State.

Q No, they're going to lift the curfew, Mort.

Q Well, as part of the return to normalcy in full, it's expected that martial law will be lifted.

MR. ALLIN: There was a statement on that yesterday.

Q Will economic sanctions against the Soviets be discontinued if and when Poland lifts martial law?

MR. SPEAKES: That's a speculative question.

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MR. SPEAKES: He just customarily have not done it because it is one that he usually works on himself and doesn't finalize it until pretty close to the end.

Q Do you have any feel --

Q When will the schedule be available?

MR. SPEAKES: Between 4:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. Were you plugged in earlier?

Q Oh, I am sorry.

Q This afternoon, Bruce.

MR. SPEAKES: I think he is listening to his talker there.

Q Have your producer pick it up, Bruce.

Q It is getting bad when we can't have a text on that.

MR. SPEAKES: We have never put one out.

Q What about the opening remarks at Tennessee?

MR. SPEAKES: Hopefully we will have that on the plane in the morning.

Q Larry, back to something Mr. Michel said. He said that the speaker might well have misjudged the President's willingness to compromise. Do you know what he was talking about?

MR. SPEAKES: My judgment is that the President went

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