



Prime Minister

House of Lords · Westminster

The projection of British policy in Latin America

We have many long term interests in Latin America. These may be, may be being, affected by current events. How deep our unpopularity at the moment is, must be a matter for controversy. How long it will last is another such. I shd. not have thought very long after the cessation of hostilities. This could be mistaken: I certainly did not anticipate the apparent strength of Latin American willingness to support Argentina in the first place.

At all events, I am most sceptical whether a victory for the Junta wd really be welcomed elsewhere in Latin America - the consequences of such a victory wd. be unpredictable.

'Latin America' is the reverse of monolithic. Even countries which have given full support to Argentina are not united. Even where politicians seem united, there are other veins of opinion. The fact that one country (eg. Venezuela) ~~has~~ <sup>has</sup> given support to Argentina may affect its neighbours (eg. Colombia). There are countries which have been shyly unenthusiastic about Argentina's case; with some of these (eg. Mexico), old suspicions (eg. over Argentina's role in Central America) cannot be far from the surface.

Bearing all these things in mind, should not ~~be~~ a major 'information' campaign be launched to put the British case? What I have in mind is a considered, sustained & systematic attempt to get our point of view put over in the press, television & radio, & newsreels?

I imagine that embassies have instructions on these lines as it is. But it might be helpful to try & co-ordinate

these country-by-country efforts. Many reviews & magazines have sales in their neighbours' ~~countries~~. Many writers have syndicated columns in more than one country.

The aims - divide & influence - may be more easily comprehended if articulated at the centre.

I am unrepentant in continuing to think that there are shades of opinion within Argentina also. All the politicians - including the opposition - do seem to support the Junta: even the left. Peronists have sought to make amends there, thereby showing the fragility of principles which they previously put forward as ~~solid~~ raising matters of life & death. But as I said above, politicians do not constitute the whole nation.

Finally those who help us, either in the above ways or in international organisations, should be thanked. A country which does not go along with its neighbours (eg. Colombia) risks something. Perhaps you have already written to the president of Colombia for his helpful attitude. If not, & I know you will forgive the suggestion, a letter from either the Foreign Secretary or yourself might have very beneficial consequences.

Augh Thomas  
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