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MEETING OF INFORMATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

2.45 PM MONDAY 26 APRIL 1982

Present:

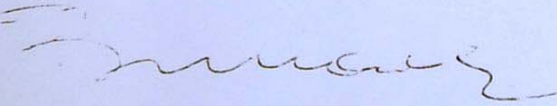
B Ingham - No 10
J Groves - Director General, COI
N Fenn - FCO
D Colvin - Cabinet Office
S Fuller - Presentation Unit
R Hatfield - Presentation Unit
B Mower - No 10

The Group discussed yesterday's events which developed quickly through the day and, to some extent, emerged piecemeal. It was pulled together by Mr Nott's evening statement. But it did suggest that there was room for some tightening of our briefing arrangements. We needed to bear in mind the importance not only of getting out firmly-based information fast but also in the most helpful context. We needed to anticipate carefully the presentational consequences of action and be prepared to brief very rapidly thereafter. There was a danger of losing domestic and international support for policies if we failed to present our actions in a coherent and authoritative manner.

On the question of United Nations participation it was argued that we should not appear to rule out the United Nations and alienate people unnecessarily. It should be kept in the background at least while the Haig initiative continues. But it would be obvious to observers that the UN lacked the muscle to remove the Argentinians; and the more the Russians were seen to support the Argentinians, the more evident would it be that they would veto any further effective Security Council Resolution.

The general view was that the Press had been satisfactory this morning but the current PA story about a "smell of cordite in Whitehall" was unhelpful.

The next meeting will be at 10 am on Tuesday 27 April 1982.


B MOWER
26 April 1982

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