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MEETING OF INFORMATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

10 AM TUESDAY 27 APRIL 1982

Present:

B Ingham	-	No 10
J Groves	-	Director General, COI
I McDonald	-	MoD
(part of meeting)		
R Westbrook	-	FCO
D Colvin	-	Cabinet Office
S Fuller	-	Presentation Unit
R Hatfield	-	Presentation Unit
B Mower	-	No 10
(part of meeting)		

The Group expressed concern about the tone of much of the morning's press which implied the inevitability of further and relatively straightforward military action. In the last 24 hours we had had the PA story of Whitehall sources suggesting a landing within 48 hours; the Times lead story of a landing; extensive references to SBS operations; and Admiral Woodward's further contribution. All of this was unhelpful for many reasons, not least the credibility of MoD official briefing, and MoD were asked by the Group to convey their concern to the Chiefs of Staff.

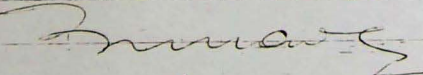
There was some further discussion about the sequence of events on Sunday and the balance of advantage between getting news out quickly and getting it out correctly and in the best context. It was acknowledged that there were conflicting pressures and it must be a matter for judgement at the time. But close and rapid liaison between the departments in play was essential.

FCO reported a further incident in South Georgia which was not to be released immediately, notably for diplomatic reasons.

MoD confirmed that they had received back some official film and would discuss this with COI.

It was agreed that there could be a difficult period ahead with the Press seeking stories during a pause in both diplomatic and military activity.

The next meeting will be held at 10 am on Wednesday 28 April 1982.



BRIAN MOWER
27 April 1982

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