

CONFIDENTIAL

MEETING OF INFORMATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

10 AM THURSDAY 20 MAY 1982

Present:

B Ingham - No 10  
J Groves - Director General, COI  
N Fenn - FCO  
J Gee - MoD  
D Colvin - Cabinet Office  
S Fuller - Presentation Unit  
R Hatfield - Presentation Unit  
H Mills - Chancellor of the Duchy's Office  
B Mower - No 10.

Military

Mod could not confirm reports of continued shelling of the Port Stanley area. They were able to deny stories about SAS's men being captured in Argentine. They reported that the weather had closed in over the Falklands and it was very cold and windy at present.

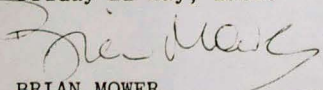
Diplomatic

FCO outlined the diplomatic developments yesterday and overnight. A number of attempted initiatives by the Secretary General had been headed off by Sir Anthony Parsons but he had eventually phoned both the Prime Minister and President Galtieri and had communicated to them his views on the two main points outstanding between the two sides and how they might be brought together. Ministers now had to decide whether to ignore this final UN request and go ahead as planned or to go along with it together with a deadline for Argentine response on the expectation that the Argentines would not accept. The implications of each course of action for international opinion should there be an armed invasion were obvious. In the meantime we still did not know whether or not we should publish our proposals at 12.30 pm today.

Our line today is to confirm Parsons' public statements of yesterday indicating pessimism and the wide gaps that still existed on questions of substance, that the Secretary General had communicated his ideas to us and they are under study this morning by the Cabinet. The Prime Minister will bring the House up-to-date in her opening speech to the debate.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group will take place at 10 am on Friday 21 May, 1982.

  
BRIAN MOWER  
20 May 1982

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