

CONFIDENTIAL

MEETING OF INFORMATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

10 AM FRIDAY 28 MAY 1982

Present:

B Ingham	-	No 10
P Brazier	-	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 reported on current military activity and confirmed that they were continuing to offer no information about progress of task force on the Falklands. Skyhawks had bombed the beachhead at St Carlos Bay and there were casualties (possibly including civilians). Two Skyhawks had been shot down in an earlier raid and one Harrier had been lost attacking Port Stanley airport. MoD would issue a statement later in the day.

They had no information about the material possibly to be salvaged from the Atlantic Conveyor.

There was some discussion about arms supplies to Argentina. We were not offering general guidance on this beyond our being aware of various reports and following them up with Governments concerned. FCO were letting it be known by innuendo, however, that we were less than happy about Israel's record in this respect.

Diplomatic

FCO reported that our reply to the Secretary General had been well received and there was a good possibility of his staying in play until Tuesday. Meanwhile Haig had come down finally on our side at the OAS: we should not assume that it would necessarily come out as badly as predicted.

The FCO stressed the importance of maintaining a "diplomatic figleaf" and to keep in place a diplomatic mechanism through which the Argentines could withdraw with less loss of face. They were anxious to avoid emotive terms like "surrender". We had to think of the longer term position after British Administration had been restored. Mr Pym's interview on TV Eye had been totally consistent with Government policy without ruling out the possibility of negotiation with the Argentines in the longer term.

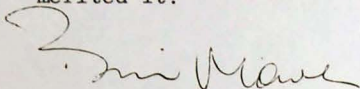
Weekend

No 10 were aiming not to hold lobby briefings over the weekend: Brian Mower would be on duty and come in if it proved necessary. FCO were holding no briefings over the weekend.

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Broadcasts

Mr Pym was considering an interview for World This Weekend but generally Ministers were not keen to get involved unless developments merited it.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Brian Mower".

BRIAN MOWER
28 May 1982