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MEETING OF INFORMATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

10 AM MONDAY 7 JUNE 1982

Present:

B Ingham	-	No 10
J Groves	-	Director General, COI
R Westbrook	-	FCO
M R C Pentreath	-	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 that they had no information of activity apart from a general consolidation of our position.

They were considering preparations for taking the world Press to the Falkland Islands. A paper was going to the Chiefs of Staff. FCO were preparing a paper on accreditation. They were stressing the importance of not only US but also Latin American and Commonwealth correspondents' being included.

MoD had no further information on access to Commander Astiz after his arrival and promised to let the Chairman have a further note prior to the Lobby.

They were not offering any guidance on stories about delivery of Sea Eagle missiles. However it was surprising. They are still undergoing pre-production tests; and they are in any case anti-ship, not anti-Exocet missiles.

MoD confirmed that their Permanent Under Secretary of State, in unattributable briefing, had indicated that Israel was the source for replacement 'planes and missiles to Argentine.

The report of the inquiry into the death of an Argentine prisoner on South Georgia is still under consideration. The Law Officers had been involved.

The Vulcan bomber was still grounded in Brazil.

Diplomatic

The Secretary General had submitted last minute proposals for truce and ceasefire to be followed by withdrawal of Argentine troops and reduction of British troops. Sir Anthony Parsons had told him that the terms were unacceptable and we understand that Argentina had also said they were unacceptable. The story has not surfaced publicly. Meanwhile the Secretary General's good offices are still available to both sides.

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In discussion of Press coverage of the US vote in the Security Council, it was felt that it had not come out too badly. Emphasis of coverage had been on US muddle rather than the UK veto which was helpful. The Chairman indicated that he might raise at the Lobby the question of Ireland's voting together with Russia, Poland etc.

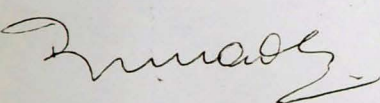
FCO reported that Mr Pym and Mr Haig would have a bilateral meeting tomorrow morning.

Commenting on stories of a "5-point plan" the Chairman confirmed that the Prime Minister had denied any knowledge of any such plan being presented at Versailles or anywhere else. The Chairman confirmed that the Prime Minister would be making an "all embracing" statement on Versailles tomorrow. She would be giving a 10 minute interview to each of NBC, ABC and CBS at midday on Wednesday following President Reagan's visit.

The meeting was informed that the Chancellor of the Duchy thought it unnecessary to hold a meeting today unless others felt the need for it. The Chairman commented that perhaps it would not be practicable to wait until next Monday but, perhaps, a meeting should be considered for Wednesday or Thursday.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group will take place at 10 am on Tuesday 8 June 1982.


B MOWER
7 June 1982

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