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MEETING OF INFORMATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

10 AM MONDAY 14 JUNE 1982

Present:

B Ingham	-	No 10
N Kelly	-	COI
P Marshall	-	FCO
M R C Pentreath	-	MoD
S Fuller	-	Presentation Unit
R Hatfield	-	Presentation Unit
K Long	-	Chancellor of the Duchy's Office
D Colvin	-	Cabinet Office
B Mower	-	No 10.

Military

MoD said that they had no further news of fresh moves on the ground. The Tumbledown Range of hills was still to be taken.

They may have something to say later today about the setting up of a safety zone. The Secretary of State may make a statement in the House including this among other things. There was no decision on when to release individual names of Welsh dead.

MoD did not know how long we had been aware of the 600 Falklanders in Port Stanley. Until recently we were saying that it was under 300.

MoD were denying Argentine stories of attacks on a hospital ship.

In connection with stories about reduced commitment to NATO, we could confirm that there were no complaints from our partners at present. They may well be unhappy about the longer term commitment but this need not be so large if a lengthened runway were installed at Port Stanley.

Governor Hunt

The Secretary of State said in a television interview on Friday that no decision had been taken about his return. This was a possibility but there were other possibilities too. British administration was to be restored but we would not necessarily go back exactly to what existed before. We could not take a final decision on this until we have repossessed the Islands.

Lord Shackleton has his terms of reference and we might suggest that he was aiming for completion at the end of June. It will be for the Prime Minister to decide whether the report should be published.

Journalists

MoD were unsure about provision of a ship for transporting other (including international) journalists to the Falklands. This could take as long as a month: the best possibility seemed to be

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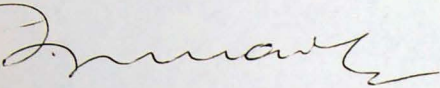
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two weeks from a Brazilian port: there were doubts however about any ship carrying them if hostilities continue. In the subsequent discussion the importance of getting international journalists on to the Islands immediately Port Stanley was taken was emphasised.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group would take place at 10 am on Tuesday 15 June 1982.



B MOWER
14 June 1982

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