

CONFIDENTIAL

MEETING OF INFORMATION GROUP ON THE FALKLANDS

10 AM FRIDAY 18 JUNE 1982

Present:

B Ingham - No 10  
N Kelly - COI  
R Westbrook - FCO  
J Gee - MoD  
D Colvin - Cabinet Office  
R Hatfield - Presentation Unit  
K Long - Chancellor of the  
                  Duchy's Office  
B Mower - No 10.

Messages have been received overnight, through the International Red Cross, that Argentina was prepared to accept the Canberra and Norland into Argentine ports and to send their own hospital ships to the Falklands to pick up prisoners. This was being considered by Ministers in OD(SA). A statement was subsequently given to the Lobby about the Canberra and Norland.

Our position remained that we were prepared to hold back special categories of prisoners until Argentina had declared a total ceasefire but no decision had been made on where they should be kept.

The Government would not at present comment on the change of Argentine Government. We did not know enough about them and it is too early to come to a view on what their attitudes will be.

We have not apparently received messages of congratulation from the USA or our European partners. FCO were refusing to go into this saying simply that we had received messages but this was on the basis of confidential exchanges.

The Prime Minister would be writing to Opposition leaders today about the terms of reference of the inquiry.

The MoD said that the "riot" among the prisoners arose because officers failed to impose discipline. They had no information about delayed action incendiaries left in some buildings.

The Chilean authorities would not allow the BBC plane to leave for the Falklands yesterday nor will they sanction any such flights until there is a clear cessation of hostilities. MoD said that it was unlikely that the Port Stanley airstrip would be "risk free" for the 24 June. This did not mean that no aircraft could get in there.

MoD reported that they were closing their Press Centre as from today. SAPU is also to be wound up.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is being interviewed on the World This Weekend. The Chancellor of the Duchy will be on World

CONFIDENTIAL

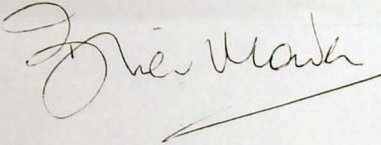
CONFIDENTIAL

2.

at One today. It was agreed that the Group should continue to meet for the time being, at least until OD(SA) was wound up.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Group would take place at 10 am on Monday 21 June 1982.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Brian Mower", with a long horizontal line underneath it.

BRIAN MOWER  
18 June 1982

CONFIDENTIAL