

INTERVIEW WITH MR PYM, SECRETARY OF STATE, by
MR GORDON CLOUGH, BBC RADIO 'WORLD THIS WEEKEND'
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Q. Foreign Secretary, Alexander Haig is due back here sometime tomorrow bringing with him his specific ideas for further discussion; now it looks as if he is going to arrive well after the expiry of the MEZ deadline, so would it be in your mind to order British ships not to do anything until such time as you have had a chance to discuss those specific ideas?

A. You know that is really a decision for the Argentinians. They invaded this island, they made this aggressive act, this invasion, so they took that aggressive action. We said on Wednesday, giving four days notice, that this zone would come into effect and if there is going to be some arrangement whereby we can achieve by diplomatic means an end to this dispute, then I would not expect there to be any targets within that zone. As a matter of fact I would not have expected there to be any targets within that zone, anyway I certainly hope there wouldn't. But in view of the fact that Mr Haig is making these efforts which we totally support to try and find a solution, I think it would be very surprising indeed if there were targets there, at any rate I hope very much that the Argentinians do not present a target.

Q. Have you had any indication at all that the potential targets are leaving the area?

A. No, but I think the bulk of the Argentinian Navy is near their ports in the mainland, somewhere in the ports in the mainland, we do not know exactly what is there but the evidence we have suggests that the bulk of it is near their own mainland.

Q. So there may in fact by 5 o'clock tomorrow morning be nothing for the submarines to attack.

A. That is quite possible and I certainly hope that is so

/and if

this negotiation
 and if you can call it that to find a diplomatic solution in accordance with the United Nations Charter is to be real, then I think it would be really extraordinary if the Argentinians did not clear out of the zone.

Q. Mr Pym, when Mr Haig went to Argentina as a friend and ally, not as a negotiator, he took with him apparently a message from the Government to say that there could be no peace until the 9,000 or however many thousand Argentine troops there are in the Falklands had withdrawn and British administration was restored. Do you still stand by that position?

A. That's right, because as I say they are the invading party; the United Nations passed a resolution demanding the end of hostilities, demanding an immediate withdrawal of all Argentine forces and, of course, the Argentine is legally required to fulfil that requirement and it has not yet done so. And obviously that is a first step to be taken by them before there can be anything remotely like negotiations for a long term solution of the whole problem. So naturally it is vital that that happens and it isn't just a matter between the Argentine and us because I think the whole world has an interest in seeing that this act of aggression is not allowed to stand and therefore of course withdrawal is a first condition.

Q It does not sound from what President Galtieri was saying yesterday as if he was prepared now to withdraw. He said indeed he was calling on us for restraint. He was saying that if they come we will do battle. He also talked about peace with honour. Now can there be any peace with honour for us that does not involve total withdrawal?

A. There must be total withdrawal. No I don't think there can be and that is a United Nations Resolution to which Argentine is of course committed to the Charter just as we are, and they passed that Resolution so they are required to withdraw. I

think one mustn't perhaps necessarily take at absolute face value what a President such as Mr Galtieri may say at a moment of this kind, but the point is that Mr Haig is coming back to London. He arrives sometime tomorrow: we don't know yet when and of course he is going to engage himself in talks with the Prime Minister and myself and we will see what he has to say. But that would suggest that there is ^{at any rate} ~~generally~~ some scope for the finding of a diplomatic solution and as I said to the House last week, the House of Commons, we are very desirous indeed of ending this by peaceful means as I believe everybody is.

Q. What about a longer term peace with honour? There have been talks of course with the Argentine about the possibility of lease-back. The possibility of condominium has been mentioned. In the long term do you think that those options are still open? Do you think that the Falklands Islands can accept a lease-back or a condominium?

A. Whereas I would not exactly exclude them, I can tell you that until and unless there is a withdrawal and unless the conditions of the United Nations Resolution ^{are} ~~is~~ fulfilled there is no question of any further talks or any further negotiations. It does not arise. We have been invaded: British territory has been annexed and that has got to be put right before any further talks can take place.

Q. While we are waiting for what might be a ^{NAVAL} ~~noble~~ battle, what about the position of the Falkland Islanders themselves. There has been this letter from the 15 civic leaders which has been dismissed as not representative, but is it not a letter which should be paid attention to? It may express the wishes of more islanders than are given credit for?

A. I do not think we ought to talk in terms of a naval battle because as I have had indicated I expect that there will be no targets and I very much hope that there won't be within the zone and I would like to make that quite clear, and the bulk of the Argentinian Navy from the evidence we have is near the mainland. In the meantime it is pretty clear that the Falkland Islanders are having a very rough time. I am so glad the

Governor broadcast a message to them today. I am sure they are having a rough time and obviously they will hope that their territory can be returned to British administration and of course thereafter we can ascertain yet again what their wishes are likely to be. We have always paid close attention to their wishes and we must find out again what they will be and the only way we can do that is after there has been a withdrawal. As for the letter, I have not seen a copy. I haven't seen any of the signatories to it and until we have seen a copy and know more about it it is a bit difficult to assess it exactly. But I should be very surprised after all that has happened if the Falkland Islanders were not even more British than they were before, if that is possible.

Q. Is there any further prospect do you think of the United Nations being able to help us in any way? The use of the UN has been urged by various voices, Tony Benn among them, the Peruvian Ambassador among others.

A. We have used the United Nations. It passed a Resolution and it ought to be carried out, and the members of the United Nations ought to see that it is carried out, ~~and~~ I would remind you that even the Soviet Union did not oppose it and they are equally responsible for seeing that it is implemented, ^{just} To take one example, and as an interest for the whole world to see that it is implemented and that's the use of the United Nations - that is what it is for and I very much hope that its members will see that that is carried out.

Q. You said in the House of Commons in the debate that Britain would not appease dictators. Now a very short time to go before that MEZ comes into operation there is a possibility that some ships may still be left in it. Are you prepared to appease in any way?

A. No. The whole world wants the Argentine to withdraw. ~~because~~ **I** It was an aggressive act as everybody very well knows and everybody wants the problem resolved without going to war. And it is up to them to them to withdraw and the whole world wants that. Look at the support ~~it's~~ ^{we've} had in the Community.

A unanimous resolution passed yesterday banning export on arms but also banning Argentinian imports. Look at the response we have had from the Commonwealth. It is splendid. All our friends around the world, all freedom loving people realise what has happened, what an offence has been committed and they want it put right by Argentine without war.

Q. Foreign Secretary I must press you again on this last and what many people think to be the crucial point. Mr Nott has said that if ships are about they will be sunk. If there are ships about tomorrow at 5 o'clock, will they be sunk?

A. That is the position. But as I say I do not expect that there will be. But that is the position.