

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

cc:- Mr Coles o.r. ^{MS.}

FRANKS ENQUIRY

Lord Carrington was recalled before the Franks Committee on 29 December and afterwards came in to de-brief the Prime Minister. He had received a letter from Lord Franks containing five "provisional judgements" of the Committee on which he had been invited to comment in case they should be interpreted as critical of the actions of himself when the report was published. He showed the Prime Minister, and myself, the letter, and the sense of the points in it, as I recall them, were as follows:-

- (i) he did not resist the decision to withdraw 'Endurance' as vigorously as he might have done in the light of developments in the situation in the Autumn of 1981;
- (ii) at a Foreign Office meeting on (?) 7 September, he did not agree to Mr Ridley's proposal for a campaign of education in the Falklands to promote the idea of lease-back;
- (iii) at the same meeting, he decided to invite Sr. Camilion at their meeting in New York to make proposals for settling the dispute; thus passing the initiative to the Argentines;
- (iv) at the same meeting he did not authorise circulation to OD of a draft paper prepared by the Foreign Office.
- (v) On 5 March in the light of the information he had then received, it might have been better if he had considered physical measures of deterrence to the Argentines, not just diplomatic steps.

Lord Carrington said that only Lord Franks had spoken at the hearing. He (Lord Franks) had responded vigorously and, in his words, his manner had been "pretty wintery". He had asked Lord Franks on the way into the meeting whether he was the only one to be

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criticised, and Lord Franks said that he was the only person to be mentioned by name. Lord Carrington thought that not only were the points put to him misconceived but also that it would be very unfair if he was the only person to be criticised. He said that he had put these points forcefully to the Committee.

The Prime Minister said to me, after Lord Carrington left, that she thought we ought to show the report to Lord Carrington in confidence as soon as it was received, rather than waiting until 48 hours before publication.
H.R.B.

29 December, 1982