

MR. COLES

A.S.C. 4/4
v-a.

Security Council

Whilst Ministers were meeting informally in the Commons late this afternoon, Brian Fall telephoned me with Sir Anthony Parsons' latest report. Sir Anthony Parsons was uncertain whether we could ~~must~~^{muster} nine votes for our Resolution, but recommended that we ~~could~~^{should} press ahead to a vote today. He saw considerable advantage in voting now on a Resolution which might make some sense to British public opinion. There were, on the other hand, considerable disadvantages in spending more time over negotiation leading to changes in the draft. Ultimately, there would be a risk that we would lose control of the ~~meeting~~^{resolution}, perhaps to the extent of finding it necessary to veto in order to preserve our freedom of action.

When I reported this to the FCS, he raised the matter with a group of Ministers then present. The Prime Minister and all present formally endorsed Sir Anthony Parsons' recommendations.

MA

3 April, 1982