

Private Secretary

FALKLAND ISLANDS: SITREP AT 0730, 4 APRIL

~~Prime Minister~~
Overnight report by F/CO.

A.S.C. - 4/4

SECURITY COUNCIL

1. UKMIS New York telegram Nos 389, 391 and 392 confirmed the result of the Security Council vote which had been passed to us earlier by telephone (10 votes for, 1 against [Panama], 4 abstentions [USSR, Poland, China and Spain]. The telegrams underline that almost all speakers in the debate supported Argentinians' case on the substance of sovereignty dispute, while strongly opposed to the use of force. This point needs to be borne in mind for future approaches to the UN, in Sir A Parsons's view.

SOUTH GEORGIA

2. Argentine Military Junta Communiqué No 12 claimed that the takeover of South Georgia was complete with their takeover of Grytviken. This now confirmed in a message from HMS ENDURANCE at 032245Z. ENDURANCE's helicopter carried out a covert reconnaissance during which it discovered the Argentine frigate GUERRICO off Grytviken. They also believed, but did not sight, the PARAISO to be in the Bay. They had no knowledge of the fate of the Royal Marines and the BAS party at Grytviken. The remainder of South Georgia was in British hands. Four British Antarctic survey personnel were at Bird Island, two at Schlieper Bay (Bird Island is at the western extremity of South Georgia and Schlieper Bay lies to the East of Bird Island at the western extremity of main island). They had also discovered Cindy Buxton and Annie Price at St Andrews Bay, together with two BAS scientists who had gone to give them moral support. ENDURANCE's helicopter had dropped a message of good cheer but had not picked them up. The MOD described St Andrews Bay as two days' march from Grytviken. ENDURANCE has now departed South Georgia and spent the night south-west of the island amongst '800 ice-bergs'. ENDURANCE will attempt to carry out another reconnaissance flight on 4 April. (There is a separate Argentine account of the military encounter at Grytviken.)

3. Duty Office No 10, Private Secretary and Mr Luce informed, as well as Lord Buxton and Dr Laws (BAS). Mr Luce was anxious to avoid any repetition of the delay in confirming the seizure of Port Stanley and instructed that News Department should confirm, in response to any press enquiries, that Grytviken had fallen. News Dept were informed accordingly.

UK/CHILE

4. At 0015 hrs the Sunday Express telephoned to ask for confirmation that the Chileans had offered us the use of HMS NORFOLK. We declined to comment.

DEMONSTRATION AGAINST THE ARGENTINE EMBASSY

5. The Metropolitan Police reported that at 2030 hrs on 2 April two men were arrested outside the Argentine Embassy. They were charged with being drunk and disorderly. During the arrest a small piece of rock was thrown at the Embassy and a window broken.

6. At 1525 on 3 April two men were arrested after throwing tins of corned beef at the Embassy and breaking a window. They will be charged on Wednesday 7 April.

7. At 1930 hrs on 3 April the New National Front began a peaceful, torchlight vigil in Wilton Crescent which lasted between 60 and 90 minutes. The area around the Embassy has now been cordoned off.

8. We were notified at 0315 that a junior barrister and a consultant architect had been arrested for throwing an egg at the Argentine Residence. They claimed to be making 'a protest' on behalf of the man in the street'.

PRESIDENT GALTIERI'S REACTIONS TO BRITISH MOVES

9. At 0500 the BBC Monitoring Service rang to say that they had picked up an Argentine news agency report which covered a meeting which President Galtieri had with journalists shortly after midnight. He apparently wanted to make it clear to the international community that, if attacked, the Argentine will fight. But they are prepared to talk and keep talking. The Monitoring Service will let us have a copy of the report.

P J Weston

Copied to: PS/LPS
PS/Mr Luce
PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Ure

Mr Gillmore
Mr Fearn
Mr Marshall
Mr Fenn

[Handwritten signature]

EMERGENCY UNIT

0730: 4 APRIL 1982