

**106. Transcript of a Telephone Conversation Between Secretary of State Haig and British Foreign Secretary Pym<sup>1</sup>**

London, April 13, 1982, 12:40 p.m.

P: Hello, Al.

H: Hello, Francis. I just got a call from Costa Mendez.<sup>2</sup> He would like to offer another compromise to the last point, in which they would, in effect, accept the formula in paragraph 5 and want some language that parallels the '64 Declaration of the United Nations on decolonization. I think in that conjunction they are willing to accept autonomy for the Islands which gives them a local government—self-determination, in essence.

P: That is a move from their position this morning.

H: Clearly. It is a difficult problem for you here. You have a historical precedent. But we don't want to reject it out of hand.

P: Do they want to add to paragraph 5?

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<sup>1</sup> Source: Department of State, Executive Secretariat, Files of Alexander M. Haig, Jr., 1981–1982, Lot 82D370, (2) Falklands Crisis—1982. Secret; Nodis. Haig was speaking from his suite at the Churchill Hotel.

<sup>2</sup> See Document 105.

H: To paragraph 7.

P: We will just have to see. Would they drop that list?

H: They would drop everything and buy paragraph 5. I think they know what we are talking about. A number of changes we made might make them uncomfortable, but I think all that is manageable if we can get decolonization.

P: And the wishes of the people. That is crucial. I will have to find out about the '64 resolution.

H: In the meantime, I am going to get this proposal in specific terms through the Ambassador. I think we should stay put until we look at it. I told him I would return to Washington. Staying here makes it look like I am an agent. You start looking; we will start our looking.

P: We ought to have another talking maybe. And obviously you don't want to stay too long. You presumably would do your thinking quickly.

H: The most important thing, very frankly, is that your position over the years has been eroded by other governments and you cannot now take a position which goes back and across that history. I think the Prime Minister would be vulnerable to criticism.

P: I'm sure—and not only for that reason.

H: At least we can keep the dialogue going through a structured framework.

P: All right.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>3</sup> In his memoirs, Haig wrote that he spoke to Thatcher following this conversation with Pym, observing that her "wariness and reservations were as great as Pym's; but she, too, believed that there was a basis for continuing the process." (Haig, *Caveat*, p. 285) No memorandum of conversation of this exchange has been found.