

## FALKLAND ISLANDS

SITREP BY FCO: 0730 16 APRIL: OVERNIGHT DEVELOPMENTS

US

1. Mr Haig left slightly earlier than expected for Buenos Aires (2 pm London time on 15 April) and depending on the progress of his talks there, he could arrive back in London on Saturday afternoon.
2. The Americans are increasingly concerned about Soviet involvement and disinformation activity. Eagleburger is to see Dobrynin to 'read him the riot act' about Soviet activities.
3. In this context, Mr Hurd took the opportunity of a call by Soviet Ambassador Popov on 15 April to make clear HMG's views on the Falklands and the need for a solution on the basis of SCR 502. Popov maintained that the Soviet position was 'principled and not opportunist'.

UN

4. Sir A Parsons made a further statement on HMG's position in the plenary of ECOSOC on 15 April.
5. He believes that it will be possible to get through the weekend without further proceedings in the Security Council provided that there is no naval incident. The President of the Security Council (Kamanda: Zaire) believes that the Council cannot remain on the sidelines indefinitely; it is likely that pressure for UN action will grow.
6. Sir A Parsons warned that strong efforts should be made to dissuade Councillor Cheek from going to New York to argue the Falklands case if there was any possibility that he might undermine HMG's position.

EEC

7. The European Parliament is likely to discuss the Falklands during the plenary session in Strasbourg next week.

Latin America

8. As the Task Force gets nearer to the Falklands it is becoming more difficult for some Latin American countries not to give public support to Argentina in response to President Galtieri's letter of 12 April. The Colombian reply, though still attempting to be balanced, leans more towards the Argentine position than before. The reply from Uruguay was partially leaked in Buenos Aires to show greater support for Argentina and HMA Montevideo thinks that it will be difficult for Uruguay to maintain her moderate stance for much longer. Nevertheless, President Alvarez went ahead with his visit to Chile and signed a joint statement on 14 April with President Pinochet emphasising the principle of self-determination. Pinochet's subsequent remarks to the press came as close as Chile has yet come to condemning the Argentine invasion.



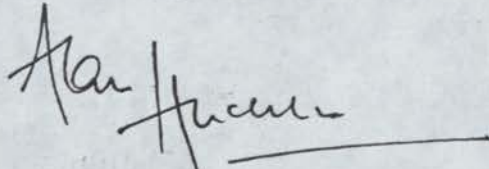
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9. The Bolivians, though supporting the Argentine recovery of the Falklands, have publicly declared themselves opposed to intervening militarily on Argentina's behalf. The Peruvian Foreign Minister has written to the Secretary of State.

Argentina

10. Argentina has reacted to the Community's economic sanctions by banning imports from EC countries (it is not clear whether this ban also applies to Australia, Canada and New Zealand).

11. Media reports indicate that the Argentine Navy has put to sea.



16 April 1982

A E Huckle  
Emergency Unit

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