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Prime Minister

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THE FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY INTERVIEWED BY KEITH GRAVES
FOR BBC RADIO 4, 6.00 P.M. NEWS LIVE FROM WASHINGTON: 23 APRIL

Mr. Graves: . . . can you tell us if any progress is being made?

Mr. Pym: Yes I think progress has been made. I had a very valuable first meeting with Mr. Haig yesterday and others and our officials worked all yesterday afternoon and evening and I have had a meeting this morning with Judge Clark from the White House and Mr. Haig and I have had an hour or two together this morning and continue this afternoon. I must tell you that serious difficulties remain. Given the position taken by the Argentines that their aggression should be rewarded it is hardly surprising that it will be difficult to reconcile British and Argentine views. But we remain determined to work for a peaceful solution if it is humanely obtainable and I shall spare no effort and we know Mr. Haig is sparing no effort. But we shall not shrink from the use of force if that is necessary. It would be no service to the cause of peace for us to pretend otherwise. So the position here is, in the middle of the work that I have come to do, and we will continue it this afternoon.

Mr. Graves: You, last night, used the word "useful" at your first talks, are you now in fact using the word "progress" or did I put that into your mouth?

Mr. Pym: I think you suggested it but it is useful and obviously we shall be discussing together how we can improve the proposals and how we can make them more mutually acceptable, that must be helpful. Because as I say I don't disguise the problems in the way.

Mr. Graves: Are you still going home tonight, in a few hours time?

Mr. Pym: My plans are to go home tonight. That is my present intention.

Mr. Graves: Have you given the Americans any assurances over the use of violence. I mean have you said we would use it when necessary or we will not use it until a certain point is reached?

Mr. Pym: No I have given no assurances of that kind and nor have

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they been sought . What we have been spending our time doing is to try and find a way to a peaceful settlement and as I say we shall make every endeavour to achieve this.

Mr. Graves: So what progress will you have made by the time you leave? You arrived here yesterday not feeling very optimistic. When you leave will you just have put over the Americans our case or will you have actually made any progress?

Mr. Pym: Well I hope we will have made progress. I hope we will have worked towards a more mutually acceptable arrangement, that remains to be seen.

Mr. Graves: The OAS is meeting here on Monday. Have the Americans discussed it all with you because its quite a vital meeting obviously.

Mr. Pym: Yes I have discussed it. Mr. Halp has referred to it and the meeting he is going to have on Monday. But that is not directly relevant to the achievements that we are trying to obtain.

Mr. Graves: It is relevant, presumably though, in that the Americans would be very unhappy if there was any violence because it is going to embarrass them with the OAS so to them it is relevant.

Mr. Pym: Yes. But all our work and incidentally that Treaty, but our work is based on the United Nations Charter and the Security Council Resolution which requires the Argentines to withdraw that is the starting point for everything and this is what we have got to work to achieve and that ^{really is absolutely vital.} We can't allow a country that annexes another/ ^{country by invasion} to simply go on enjoying the fruits of what it has achieved. We must arrange things on a more rational and a more orderly basis in the world by basing things on the United Nations and that Resolution and that is what ~~are our~~ work is dedicated towards.

Mr. Graves: The fleet is now virtually in position - are you saying now as you have been saying all along that military confrontation is now all that much closer. Are you likely to resort to that over the weekend?

/ Mr. Pym

Mr. Pym: Our strategy has been clear from the outset, to apply maximum pressure on the Argentines, by diplomatic means, by economic measures and by the build-up of military forces and we remain in exactly the same position today and I hope very much that they will realise that they must behave in an orderly way and they are ~~suffering from the~~ ^{subject to a} Mandatory Resolution and our strategy is to apply pressure too. We have got friends helping us all round the world, the European Community, the Commonwealth and others.