

172. Action Memorandum From the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Inter-American Affairs (Bosworth) to Secretary of State Haig¹

Washington, April 24, 1982

SUBJECT

Falklands Dispute: US Strategy for the Monday, April 26, Foreign Ministers Meeting

Our *options* are (1) to *seek actively to block any resolution* or (2) to *stand back*. The *chances of blocking a resolution which is at least to some extent prejudicial to the UK are near zero*. The only exception: if Argentine demands are disproportionate to situation that exists on Monday (e.g., no hostilities and GOA demands sanctions). In that case, we could probably get a blocking eight and should work for it.

Otherwise, *assuming the diplomatic effort is still alive*, we should *work behind the scenes to try to temper any resolution* as much as possible, while not inviting any expectation that we would vote for it unless it

¹ Source: Department of State, Central Foreign Policy File, P880050-2070. Confidential; Nodis. Drafted by Bosworth; cleared by Michel. A stamped notation in the top right-hand corner of the memorandum indicates that Haig saw it.

were completely balanced and non-prejudicial. We would *take the same public line* we have taken previously, i.e., *that we believe Rio Treaty framework is inappropriate* and, in any case, *no action should be taken which would complicate or prejudice on-going efforts* to achieve a diplomatic solution within the framework of UNSC Res. 502.

If our current strategy has progressed to the point at which the GOA has rejected a “US proposal” and seeks Rio Treaty sanctions, we should be prepared to go public with our conclusions:

- that the proposal was fair and balanced (discussing the key points of substance);
- that we support decolonialization but not recolonialization;
- that a diplomatic solution remains urgent; and
- since sanctions are legally invalid, we oppose the Argentine resolution.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you approve the approach outlined above.²

² Haig initialed his approval of the recommendation on April 26.