

SAPU(82)11

SOUTH ATLANTIC PRESENTATION UNIT (SAPU)

Attached for information is a transcript of Mr Pym's press conference
this evening.

Cabinet Office

30 ~~May~~ 1982

April

1. FENW: THANK YOU SECRETARY OF STATE. KEITH GRAVES.

KEITH GRAVES: DO YOU RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY OF USING THE TASKFORCE WHILE THIS NEGOTIATING CONTINUES?

MR. PYM: NO, I WOULD NOT RULE OUT ANYTHING, THE WHOLE TIME THAT THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON THE ARGENTINES HAVE BEEN REINFORCING THE ISLAND, THEY'VE NOW GOT THOUSANDS OF MEN THERE, THEY'VE TAKEN A NUMBER OF MILITARY MEASURES AND OF COURSE I DO NOT RULE IT OUT. AT THE SAME TIME THAT DOESN'T PREVENT US SEEKING A PEACEFUL SOLUTION BY ALL POSSIBLE MEANS.

1. FENW: COULD I JUST SAY - I'M SORRY - COPIES OF THE STATEMENT WILL BE AVAILABLE AS YOU LEAVE, I FORGOT TO SAY THAT BEFORE. WILL QUESTIONERS PLEASE WAIT FOR THE MICROPHONE. JOHN DICKIE

JOHN DICKIE 'DAILY MAIL': SECRETARY OF STATE, ARE YOU PREPARED TO HAVE DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINIANS NOW OR DO YOU INSIST THAT THERE MUST BE TOTAL WITHDRAWAL BEFORE YOU HAVE ANY DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS?

MR. PYM: I DOUBT DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS COULD BE FRUITFUL BECAUSE THERE IS A VERY FUNDAMENTAL DIVISION THEY HAVE CLAIMED SOVEREIGNTY FOR THEMSELVES AND THIS IS UNDOUBTEDLY A MAJOR STICKING POINT, I DOUBT THAT COULD BE FRUITFUL.

1. FENW: SATTEN CBS.

MR. SATTEN: MR. PYM, MAY I ASK MR. GRAVES' QUESTION IN A DIFFERENT WAY? DOES THIS NOT CLEAR THE DECKS FOR DIRECT MILITARY ACTION TO FORCE THE WITHDRAWAL OF THE ARGENTINES-

MRZ PYM: WE ARE MAINTAINING OUR MILITARY PRESSURE AND WE ARE BUILDING UP OUR MILITARY PRESSURE, AS EVERYBODY KNOWS. OUR TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE COMES INTO FORCE TOMORROW AND THAT IS THE NEXT STEP AND WE WILL INCREASE THE PRESSURE - I BEG YOUR PARDON IT CAME INTO FORCE TODAY, THIS VERY MORNING, I BEG YOUR PARDON - AND WE WILL GO ON TAKING WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY AND THAT UNDOUBTEDLY I THINK IS HAVING AN EFFECT ON THE ARGENTINES.

DAVE WALKER 17N: THE AMERICANS, I UNDERSTAND, ARE OFFERING MATERIAL SUPPORT, ARE WE GOING TO ASK FOR MATERIAL SUPPORT AND IF SO IN WHAT FORM?

MR. PYM: THE MAJOR EVENT TODAY IS THAT THE AMERICANS HAVE COME DOWN ON OUR SIDE, WE HAVEN'T GOT DOWN TO ANY DETAILS YET BUT IN MR. HAIG'S STATEMENT HE HAS LISTED SOME OF THE THINGS THAT HE INTENDS TO DO.

PETER ALLEN 17N: WE'VE JUST HEARD SOME COMMENTS FROM MR. COSTA MENDEZ, INDICATING HE'S PREPARED TO COMPLY WITH THE UNITED NATIONS INSTRUCTION TO LEAVE THE ISLAND, HAVE YOU HEARD OF THOSE, HAVE YOU ANY COMMENT ON THIS?

MR. PYM: HE'S SHOWN NO SIGN OF DOING THAT AT THE MOMENT, THAT OF COURSE THE CARRYING OUT OF 502 IS A BASIC CONSIDERATION. ONE OF THE PROBLEMS IS THAT IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHO ONE IS DEALING WITH IN THE ARGENTINES. THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT MR. HAIG FOUND THAT, THERE IS THE JUNTA, THERE IS PRESIDENT GALTIERI, THERE'S COSTA MENDEZ, THERE ARE THE GENERALS AND THE AMIRALS, IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHO YOU ARE DEALING WITH, BUT CERTAINLY SO FAR THEY'VE SHOWN NO SIGN WHATSOEVER OF WISHING TO WITHDRAW, ON THE CONTRARY THEY'VE SPENT THE LAST THREE OR FOUR WEEKS BUILDING UP THEIR FORCES ON THE ISLAND.

IN FENN: MICHAEL EVANS.

MICHAEL EVANS: MICHAEL EVANS 'DAILY EXPRESS'. IS THE GOVERNMENT'S POLICY STILL TO USE THE MINIMUM AMOUNT OF FORCE?

MR. PYM: OUR STRATEGY REMAINS EXACTLY AS IT HAS BEEN BEEN BEFORE, THAT IS TO SAY THE SUSTAINED BUILD-UP OF ALL THE PRESSURES THAT I HAVE JUST MENTIONED AND CERTAINLY WE HAVE CONDUCTED OURSELVES SO FAR ON THE BASIS OF MINIMUM FORCE AND CERTAINLY WE STILL INTEND TO STRIVE FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT IF THAT CAN BE DEVISED AND WE'VE GOT TO REALISE THAT OUR TASKFORCE IS APPROACHING APPROACHING AND IT WILL NOW BE AT THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE AND THEY'VE GOT TO TAKE WHATEVER STEPS ARE NECESSARY TO PROTECT IT AND IF IT IS CHALLENGED, THEN OF COURSE FORCE IS GOING TO BE USED AND THAT IS THE POSITION WE'RE IN AT THE MOMENT. IT IS STILL UP TO THE ARGENTINES TO WITHDRAW IF THEY WOULD AS THE RESOLUTION AS THE RESOLUTION REQUIRES.

N. FE: ROSEMARY WRIGHT ... CAN YOU WAIT FOR THE MIKE?

ROSEMARY: SORRY. ROSEMARY WRIGHT 'SUNDAY TIMES'. FOLLOWING UP AN EARLIER QUESTION TO YOU, ABOUT FORTY MINUTES AGO, FIFTY MINUTES AGO, THERE WAS A NEWSFLASH FROM REUTERS FROM NEW YORK WHICH SAID THAT COSTA MENDEZ HAD ANNOUNCED THAT ARGENTINA WOULD UNDERTAKE TO IMPLEMENT 502 IN ITS ENTIRETY. I BELIEVE THAT HE ADDED THAT SOVEREIGNTY WAS NOT NEGOTIABLE, BUT HIS FIRST SENTENCE WAS 'WILL IMPLEMENT IN ITS ENTIRETY'. WHAT WEIGHT WOULD YOU ATTACH TO THAT?

MR. PYM: WELL FOR THE REASONS I'VE GIVEN JUST NOW IT'S DIFFICULT TO KNOW WHAT WEIGHT TO ATTACH TO IT BECAUSE THEY'VE SHOWN NO SIGNS OF DOING SO SO FAR AND WE WILL HAVE TO HEAR FURTHER SIGNALS AS TO WHAT THE PRECISE MEANING OF THAT IS, BUT AS I SAY UP TO NOW THEY'VE BEEN TOTALLY RELUCTANT TO WITHDRAW, ON THE CONTRARY THEY'VE BEEN REINFORCING ALL THE TIME.

JOURNALIST: FOREIGN SECRETARY, WILL THE TASKFORCE NOW BE EXPECTED TO CARRY OUT ITS ORDERS ABOUT THE VIOLATION OF THE EXCLUSION ZONE? SUPPOSING, FOR INSTANCE, A SOVIET SHIP WERE TO PASS THROUGH?

MR. PYM: WE ARE ACTING UNDER ARTICLE 51 IN SELF DEFENCE, WE'VE HAD TERRITORY ANNEXED BY THE ARGENTINES, WE HAVE A RIGHT TO DEFEND THAT ISLAND AND WE HAVE ANNOUNCED VERY PUBLICLY AND GIVEN NOTICE OF ALL THE STEPS THAT WE HAVE TAKEN SO FAR AND WE WILL SECURE THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE IN THE WAY THAT I'VE DESCRIBED. IF THAT MEANS USING FORCE THEN FORCE WILL BE USED.

N. FE: THE GENTLEMAN OVER THERE . MIKE ..WAIT PLEASE, SORRY.
(QUESTION INAUDIBLE)

MR. PYM: I HAVEN'T GOT IT IN MIND TO PUT A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL TO HIM. I CERTAINLY WANT TO EXPRESS THE VIEW THE VIEWS OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT, IT'S THE FIRST OPPORTUNITY I'VE HAD TO MEET HIM AND I WANT TO HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY ABOUT IT AND THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT I SHALL CERTAINLY BE REFERRING TO RESOLUTION 502.

Handwritten note:
MIKE

(QUESTION INAUDIBLE)

MR. PYM: I'M NOT CLOSING ANY OPTION AT THE MOMENT IN THE SEARCH FOR A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT.

MR. FENN: NOEL DOWNING.

NOEL DOWNING: 'THE WASHINGTON POST'. DO TODAY'S EVENTS MEAN ANY CHANGE OR ACCELERATION IN THE BUILD-UP OF MILITARY PRESSURE THAT YOU'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT?

MR. PYM: I WOULD HAVE THOUGHT A VERY SIGNIFICANT ACCELERATION IN THAT BUILD-UP. I CANNOT IMAGINE ANY GREATER DEGREE OF BUILDING UP OF PRESSURE THAN THE UNITED STATES COMING DOWN ON THE SIDE OF BRITAIN, THAT BY ITSELF IS A VERY POWERFUL INCREASE IN PRESSURE SO I THINK THAT IS THE CHANGE.

MR. FENN: ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS? THERE MAY BE QUESTIONERS THAT I CAN'T SEE BEHIND THE MIKE? GENTLEMAN OVER THERE.

ADAM RAPHAEL: 'OBSERVER'. WOULD THE FOREIGN SECRETARY SAY IF HE'LL URGE THE US SECRETARY OF STATE TO PUBLISH HIS PEACE PROPOSALS?

MR. PYM: WELL, THEY ARE HIS PROPOSALS AND WHETHER HE WILL PUBLISH THEM OR NOT IS A MATTER FOR HIM. I HAD THOUGHT IT WAS HIS INTENTION TO PUBLISH BUT QUITE FRANKLY I DON'T KNOW. THAT IS A MATTER FOR HIM.

JAMES WALKER ITN: HOW LONG WOULD YOU EXPECT IT TO TAKE FOR AMERICAN SANCTIONS TO BITE ON ARGENTINA?

MR. PYM: SANCTIONS NORMALLY TAKE QUITE A LONG TIME TO HAVE THEIR EFFECT, THAT IS NORMAL WITH THE APPLICATIONS OF THAT IN ANY CIRCUMSTANCES BUT I THINK THE WEIGHT OF AMERICAN OPINION, THE FACT THAT THEY'VE COME DOWN ON THIS SIDE BECAUSE THEY BELIEVE THAT WE'RE RIGHT, THEY'RE SUPPORTING THEIR OLDEST ALLIES, THEY BELIEVE THE ARGENTINES HAVE BEEN QUITE UNREASONABLE. THE FACT THAT THEY'VE TAKEN THAT DECISION I THINK IS A MAJOR FACTOR IN THE DEVELOPING SITUATION.

?

MR. FENN: GENTLEMAN AT THE BACK.

NORMAN KIRK 'SUNDAY TELEGRAPH': WOULD THE SECRETARY OF STATE SAY WHETHER THE PROSPECTS FOR A MILITARY CONFLICT ARE NOW HIGHER THAN THEY WERE BEFORE MR. HAIG'S ANNOUNCEMENT, OR LESS LIKELY?

MR. PYM: I THINK IT'S VERY DIFFICULT TO ANSWER THAT, ON THE ATTITUDE SO FAR SHOWN BY THE ARGENTINES I COULD NOT SAY, I THINK THAT IT LESS LIKELY BUT IT MAY BE THAT THE PRESSURE OF THE AMERICAN DECISION TO COME BEHIND BRITAIN WILL CAUSE A CHANGE IN THEIR ATTITUDE, THAT COULD MAKE IT LESS LIKELY, BUT I COULDN'T BE MORE CERTAIN THAN THAT.

N. FENN: JOHN DICKIE

JOHN DICKIE 'DAILY MAIL': SIR, WHAT IS THE OBJECT OF YOUR VISIT TO WASHINGTON AND SECONDLY WHAT ARE YOU HOPING TO DO IN NEW YORK APART FROM EXPLAIN BRITAIN'S CASE?

MR. PYM: I'M GOING TO WASHINGTON TO DISCUSS WITH MR. HAIG THE RESULT OF THE AMERICAN DECISION AND THE NEW SITUATION THAT WE HAVE NOW REACHED, IT IS A VERY MAJOR CHANGE AND THEY ARE NOW ON OUR SIDE AND THEY ARE SUPPORTING US IN VARIOUS AND VERY IMPORTANT WAYS AND IT'S RIGHT FOR US TO TAKE STOCK TOGETHER AND TO SHARE THE DIPLOMATIC SCENE, INDEED THE WHOLE SCENE AND HOW DO WE GO TOGETHER FROM HERE?

MR. DICKIE: AID IN NEW YORK?

MR. PYM: AND IN NEW YORK - WELL, AS I HAVE DESCRIBED IT'S THE FIRST MEETING, I WANT TO HEAR WHAT THE SECRETARY GENERAL HAS TO SAY, I WANT TO PUT THE BRITISH POSITION TO THEM AND I WANT TO EXCHANGE VIEWS AND SEE WHAT POSSIBILITIES MAY EXIST.

N. FENN: MICHAEL EVANS.

MICHAEL EVANS: DO YOU SEE ANY OCCASION WHEN YOU MIGHT THINK IT RIGHT TO ASK THE AMERICANS FOR MILITARY AID AND WHAT THREAT DO YOU THINK IS THERE OF THE ARGENTINES TURNING TO THE RUSSIANS FOR HELP?

MR. PYM: I THINK THAT MR. HAIG IN HIS STATEMENT HAS MADE IT PRETTY CLEAR THAT THE UNITED STATES DOES NOT INTEND TO GIVE MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND THAT I RESPECT. AS FOR THE SOVIET UNION - WELL, THEY MUST SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES, THEY DO INCLINE, ON THE WHOLE, TO TRY AND DABBLE IN MUDDY WATER, SHALL I PUT IT THAT WAY, BUT WHAT ACTION THEY WILL HAVE OF COURSE I DON'T YET KNOW.

N.FENN: DAVID ADAMS.

DAVID ADAMS 'DAILY TELEGRAPH'. MR. HAIG SAID IN HIS STATEMENT THAT HE BELIEVED THE UNITED KINGDOM WOULD HAVE ACCEPTED HIS PROPOSALS - DO THOSE PROPOSALS STILL PROVIDE A BASIS FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATIONS WITH ARGENTINA?

MR. PYM: WELL, I THINK WHAT HE SAID WAS THAT HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER THEM OR HE HAD REASON TO HOPE. THEY DID - AS MRS. THATCHER HAS EXPLAINED AND I HAVE NEVER DISGUISED FROM ANYBODY - HAVE GREAT DIFFICULTIES FOR US BUT ON THE OTHER HAND THEY DID ALL COVER THE AREA THAT I DESCRIBED EARLIER, THE WITHDRAWAL AND THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS AND THEN THE FRAMEWORK FOR THE ULTIMATE NEGOTIATIONS, THAT IS THE AREA THAT HAS BEEN DISCUSSED ALL THE TIME, BUT WHEN THE ARGENTINES SAID, WELL, THEY WEREN'T PREPARED TO GO ALONG WITH IT, THEY WEREN'T PREPARED TO MAKE ANY CHANGE IN THEIR POSITION ON SOVEREIGNTY AND VARIOUS OTHER MATTERS, WELL, THEN OBVIOUSLY THERE WAS NO POINT IN PURSUING THEM.

N.FENN: ROSEMARY WRIGHT.

ROSEMARY WRIGHT: SO IT'S NOT TRUE, AS HAD BEEN REPORTED EARLIER TODAY, THAT THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT HAD IN FACT SIGNALLED ITS ACCEPTANCE?

MR. PYM: NO, NO, NO, NO, NO THE ARGENTINES WERE GOING TO ANSWER FIRST AND MR. HAIG WELL KNEW THE PROBLEM FROM THE BRITISH POINTS OF VIEW, JUST AS HE KNEW IT FROM THE ARGENTINE POINT OF VIEW BUT HE THOUGHT THAT WE HAD RESERVED, AND WE THOUGHT WE HAD RESERVED, A REASONABLE DEGREE OF FLEXIBILITY IN THE LIGHT OF THE SITUATION BUT HE ... WE HAVE CERTAINLY NOT ACCEPTED THEM. WHAT HE SAID WAS - . . . 974371150 COULD N G HE SAID WAS - AND I THINK IT WAS FAIR - THAT HE HOPED THAT WE WOULD CONSIDER THEM.

MR. PHILLIPS CBC: DOES YOUR PROMISE TO ENFORCE THE TOTAL BLOCKADE INVOLVE ANY ARGENTINE AIRCRAFT WHICH MIGHT ALREADY BE ON THE GROUND IN THE FALKLANDS OR ARE YOU MERELY REFERRING TO ATTEMPTS TO BREAK THE BLOCKADE?

MR. PYM: WELL, OF COURSE WE DON'T KNOW WHAT AIRCRAFT THEY'VE GOT ON THE GROUND, THAT AIRFIELD IS NOT VERY BIG, I JUST DON'T KNOW WHETHER THEY'VE GOT ANY AIRCRAFT THERE OR NOT BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT OF COURSE THAT AIRFIELD IS WITHIN THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE AND THAT'S A FACTOR THAT HAS TO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT BUT IF THEY CHALLENGE THE ZONE BY FLYING IN THE AIR SPACE WITHIN THE ZONE THEN OF COURSE THEY WILL BE CHALLENGED BY BRITISH AIRCRAFT.

MC FENN: GENTLEMAN IN THE CENTRE.

FENELLA PETRE+ - FROM BRAZILIAN TELEVISION. DO YOU BELIEVE, MR. PYM, THAT IF THE UNITED STATES HAD ASSUMED THE POSITION THEY ASSUMED TODAY BEFORE, THE SITUATION TODAY WOULD BE VERY DIFFERENT?

MR. PYM: NOT MUCH DIFFERENT, NO. I THINK IT WAS QUITE RIGHT FOR THEM TO USE EVERY ENDEAVOUR, TO GO ON RIGHT TO THE END BEFORE DECIDING THAT THIS INITIATIVE WAS NOT GOING TO BE SUCCESSFUL. AND IT WAS THE ARGENTINES WHO REJECTED IT IN THE END AND IN OUR VIEW IT WAS QUITE RIGHT THAT THE ARGENTINES SHOULD HAVE BEEN ASKED FIRST BECAUSE THEY ARE AFTER ALL THE INVADER, THEY'VE BEEN REINFORCING AND THEY ARE IN BREACH OF 502, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD HAVE MADE A GREAT DEAL OF DIFFERENCE. I THOUGHT IT WAS.... THE MOMENT HAD TO COME SOMETIME WITHIN THE NEXT FEW DAYS WHEN MR. HAIG WOULD HAVE TO BRING HIS ATTEMPTS TO A CONCLUSION AND I THINK IT SEEMS TO ME TO BE ABOUT RIGHT.

JOURNALIST: DO YOU EXPECT TO SEE PRESIDENT REAGAN ON THIS TRIP TO WASHINGTON?

MR. PYM: I DON'T EXPECT TO, NO. I THINK IF HE WANTED TO SEE ME, OBVIOUSLY THAT'S ANOTHER MATTER BUT I'VE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT I'LL HAVE A MEETING WITH HIM.

JOHN O'CALLAGHAN: 'IRISH BROADCASTING'. COULD I JUST GET IT PLAIN FROM YOU, MR. PYM, THE STATUS OF THIS NEWS THAT WE HAVE HAD FROM NEW YORK THAT MR. COSTA MENDEZ HAS SAID THAT 502 WILL BE COMPLIED WITH, ARE YOU SAYING THAT YOU DON'T ACTUALLY THINK HIM ANY LONGER TO BE A REPRESENTATIVE FIGURE OR THAT YOU HAVEN'T HEARD IT, WITH THE SAME SOURCE THAT WE HAD, OR THAT YOU HADN'T HEARD IT AT ALL? IT'S NOT TO CAST DOUBTS ON YOURSELF

MR. M: OH NO, I'D HEARD IT ALL RIGHT AND I CAN ONLY TELL YOU THAT DURING THE LAST THREE WEEKS, OR HOWEVER LONG IT IS, THESE NEGOTIATIONS HAVE BEEN GOING ON, THERE HAVE BEEN A WHOLE SERIES OF CHANGES OF MIND FROM BUENOS AIRES AND SOMETIMES TWICE IN A NIGHT, SO YOU NEVER QUITE KNOW WHAT THE LATEST POSITION IS, SO I DON'T QUITE KNOW WHAT VALIDITY TO PUT ON THAT BUT BY ... JUDGING BY THEIR BEHAVIOUR SO FAR AND THEIR REJECTION OF THE UNITED STATES PROPOSALS, IT SEEMS TO ME, TO SAY THE LEAST OF IT, THAT THE STATEMENT THAT I'VE SEEN AND THAT YOU'VE MENTIONED HERE WOULD WANT QUITE A GOOD DEAL OF FURTHER VERIFICATION BEFORE IT COULD HAVE ANY VALIDITY.

JOHN O'CALLAGHAN: CAN I JUST ASK WHAT TESTS YOU WOULD FURTHER APPLY?

MR. PYM: WELL, I DON'T THINK I WOULD BE SPECIFIC ON THAT BUT OBVIOUSLY MORE WILL DEVELOP IN THE COURSE OF THE DAY.

W. FEIN: THE GENTLEMAN AT THE BACK.

?

ALAN COPELAND:

'DAILY EXPRESS'. DOESN'T THE FACT THAT THE SECRETARY OF STATE IS GOING TO AMERICA THIS WEEKEND TO SEE THE SECRETARY OF STATE AND THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL EFFECTIVELY PRECLUDE THE USE OF FORCE BY BRITAIN, EXCEPT IN CIRCUMSTANCES OF SELF DEFENCE AGAINST AN ATTACK BY THE ARGENTINES?

MR. PYM: NO, BECAUSE WE'RE FACING FORCE NOW, AS I HAVE DESCRIBED, THEY'VE GOT A FLEET AT SEA, THEY'VE GOT THOUSANDS OF SOLDIERS ON THE ISLANDS, THEY'RE OCCUPYING TERRITORY WHICH THEY HAVE NO RIGHT TO OCCUPY. NO, WE ARE GOING TO MAINTAIN OUR TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE, THAT IS THE POSITION AND IF THEY CHALLENGE IT, THEN OF COURSE THERE WILL BE MILITARY ACTION AND THAT'S HOW IT IS AND IT DOESN'T IN ANY WAY ALTER THE FACT THAT ANY WAY ALTER THE FACT THAT I AM GOING ON THIS MISSION TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH MR. HAIG, TO DISCUSS THE SITUATION WITH THE SECRETARY-GENERAL, WE WILL TAKE WHATEVER MILITARY ACTION IS NECESSARY IN THE CONTEXT OF WHAT WE HAVE DESCRIBED.

N. FENN: THE GENTLEMAN THERE.

BRIAN HANCOCK: 'NEWSWEEK MAGAZINE'. AS A FOLLOW UP TO THAT QUESTION, DOES MR. COSTA MENDEZ' STATEMENT TO NEW YORK TODAY IN EFFECT BUY ARGENTINA SOME EXTRA TIME?

MR. PYM: NOT SO FAR AS I'M CONCERNED, WE'D HAVE TO HAVE MANY MORE DECISIONS THAN THAT FROM THEM BEFORE WE CAN MAKE PROGRESS. THEY'VE GOT TO WITHDRAW, WE'VE GOT TO HAVE AN ARRANGEMENT FOR WITHDRAWAL AND WITH SOME DETAIL AND THERE'S NO INKLING OF WHAT THOSE MIGHT BE AND AS I SAY, AFTER ALL THE TIME AND TROUBLE TAKEN IN THE LAST THREE WEEKS TO TRY AND ESTABLISH THEM IT'S A RATHER SURPRISING REMARK TO COME OUT JUST BLANDLY LIKE THAT FROM NEW YORK, SO I THINK WE OUGHT NOT TO PERHAPS PAY TOO MUCH ATTENTION TO IT TILL WE KNOW A GREAT DEAL MORE ABOUT IT.

N. FENN: TIME FOR PERHAPS TWO OR THREE MORE QUESTIONS. KEITH GRAVES

KEITH GRAVES: MR. PYM, YOU SAID THERE IF THEY CHALLENGE IT, MEANING THE EXCLUSION ZONE, THERE WILL BE MILITARY ACTION: DID I UNDERSTAND YOU CORRECTLY, YOU SAID THERE 'WILL' BE, NOT THERE 'MAY' BE.

MR. PYM: WELL, IF THEY CHALLENGE THE ZONE, YES, THERE WOULD.... BECAUSE THE MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE HAS NOW BEEN IN EXISTENCE FOR A COUPEE OF WEEKS OR MORE AND BASICALLY THAT HAS BEEN RESPECTED, THAT OS THE POSITION. SO THERE WOULD BE NO .. BUT IF THEY WERE TO FLY INTO THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE NOW, OR FLY .. OR TRY AND FLY OFF THE ISLAND THEN OF COURSE THEIR AEROPLANES WOULD BE ATTACKED OR IF THEY TRIED TO DO SOMETHING ELSE WITH THEIR SHIPS THEY WOULD BE ATTACKED.

KEITH GRAVES: BUT YOU'RE NOT SAYING THEY MAY BE, YOU'RE SAYING THEY WILL BE ATTACKED?

MR. PYM: BUT THAT'S BEEN THE POSITION ALL ALONG, FOR THE LAST FORTNIGHT, IF THEY HAD CHALLENGED OUR MARITIME EXCLUSION ZONE BY SENDING IN A WARSHIP OR AN AUXILIARY, THEN THEY WOULD HAVE BEEN ATTACKED. THAT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THE POSITION.

KEITH GRAVES: BUT THERE ARE AIRCRAFT ON THE RUNWAY STILL AND THEY'VE NOT BEEN...

MR. PYM: WE DON'T KNOW THAT, THERE MAY BE, BUT WE DON'T KNOW THAT.

KEITH GRAVES: BUT IF THERE ARE YOU WILL ATTACK THEM? IS THAT CORRECT?

MR. PYM: YES.

JOURNALIST 'DAILY POST': DO YOU EXPECT A MEETING OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL TO BE CALLED DURING YOUR STAY AND IF IT WAS CALLED WOULD YOU ATTEND?

MR. PYM: I'VE NO REASON TO SUPPOSE THAT IT WILL BE.

PATRICK KEATLEY: SECRETARY OF STATE, COULD YOU TELL US ON THE POINT OF BLOODSHED, WHICH OBVIOUSLY CONCERNS THE PUBLIC VERY MUCH, WOULD YOU CLARIFY FOR US WHAT THE PROSPECT IS OF BLOODSHED IN THE SENSE THAT THE PRIME MINISTER I THINK REFERRED TO IT IN THE HOUSE? IN OTHER WORDS IF BLOODSHED COMES, IT WOULD BE NOT BRITISH RESPONSIBILITY BUT ARGENTINIAN. WOULD YOU DEVELOP THAT?

MR. PYM: YES, WELL, BASICALLY THAT'S TRUE BECAUSE THEY ARE THE INVADERS, THEY STARTED MILITARY ACTION, THEY TOOK THE AGGRESSIVE ACTION, NOT BRITAIN. WE ARE ENGAGED IN A MILITARY BUILD-UP AT THE MOMENT, ~~Y/A/AK~~ UNDER THE ARTICLE 51, WITH OUR RIGHT OF SELF DEFENCE, IN ORDER TO RE-ESTABLISH THE POSITION AS IT WAS AND WE HAVE USED THE MINIMUM FORCE NECESSARY THUS FAR, AS EVERYBODY VERY WELL KNOWS AND OF COURSE WE WANT TO CONTINUE TO DO THAT BUT AS THE SITUATION DEVELOPS, WE DON'T KNOW IN WHAT WAY WE WILL BE CHALLENGED OR THE ARGENTINIANS MAY DECIDE TO CHALLENGE US. AS THAT DEVELOPS THEN CLEARLY THE LOSS OF LIFE COULD BUILD UP, IT'S SOMETHING EVERYBODY WANTS TO AVOID BUT THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR IT MUST LIE QUITE CLEARLY WITH THE ARGENTINES WHO TOOK THE ORIGINAL DECISION TO INVADE.

N. FEIN: YES, SIR?

JOURNALIST: MR. FOREIGN SECRETARY, FROM YOUR REMARKS SO FAR, IT APPEARS THAT WHAT YOU'RE SAYING IS THAT AT LEAST FOR THIS WEEKEND, AT LEAST DURING YOUR TRIP, THE MILITARY ACTIONS BY YOUR FORCES WILL BE REACTIVE TO THE ARGENTINIANS, RATHER THAN INITIATING SOME KIND OF ACTION, FOR EXAMPLE, SUCH AS THE RETAKING OF SOUTH GEORGIA.

MR. PYM: WE WILL TAKE WHATEVER STEPS WE JUDGE TO BE NECESSARY TO SECURE AND HOLD A TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE, THAT IS THE POSITION AND WE'VE GIVEN PLENTY OF NOTICE OF IT. I UNDERSTAND, WELL WE KNOW, THAT THE ARGENTINES HAVE NOW IMPOSED AN EXCLUSION ZONE OF THEIR OWN, FOR WHICH THEY GAVE NO NOTICE AT ALL BUT WE SAID WHAT WE WOULD DO AND WE WILL FULFIL THAT OBLIGATION WHATEVER IS REQUIRED TO DO IT.

JOURNALIST: DOES THAT PRECLUDE AN AGGRESSIVE ACTION TO ACTUALLY RETAKE THE FALLANDS THIS WEEKEND?

MR. PYM: OUR ACTION IS NOT AGGRESSIVE, ALL OUR ACTION IS DESIGNED TO SECURE BACK FOR US WHAT SHOULD NEVER HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY FORCE IN THE FIRST PLACE. IF WE CAN DO IT BY PEACEFUL MEANS WE'LL DO IT THAT WAY, IF WE CAN'T DO IT BY THAT WAY, HOWEVER REGRETFULLY AND HOWEVER UNWELCOME, WE WOULD HAVE TO USE FORCE.

JOURNALIST: THEN, SIR, RATHER THAN USING THE WORD AGGRESSIVE, LET ME USE THE WORD INITIATIVE, THAT YOU WOULD START THE ACTION?

MR. PYM: WELL, I'M AFRAID I'VE LOST TOUCH WITH THE ORIGINAL QUESTION BUT I THINK I'VE DESCRIBED IT. WE WILL DO WHAT IT IS NECESSARY TO DO TO SECURE THE TOTAL EXCLUSION ZONE.

N. FEIN: GENTLEMAN FROM BRAZILIAN TELEVISION.

JOURNALIST: THE PRESSURE ON ARGENTINA, WILL BRITAIN ASK ACTIVELY FOR SUPPORT OF OTHER COUNTRIES IN THE AREA, NAMELY

MR. PYM: WE'VE ASKED FOR SUPPORT FROM OUR FRIENDS ALL ROUND THE WORLD AND WE HAVE SUPPORT, AS YOU KNOW, FROM THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITY, WE HAVE SUPPORT FROM COUNTRIES IN THE COMMONWEALTH WE NOW HAVE THE BACKING OF THE UNITED STATES. WELL, THAT'S A PRETTY GOOD START.

JOURNALIST: (-QUESTION INAUDIBLE)

MR. PYN: NO, NO ... NOT PARTICULARLY IN MIND AT THE MOMENT BUT ANYBODY WHO WOULD LIKE TO COME AND HELP US, STAND UP FOR FREEDOM, STAND UP FOR DEMOCRACY, THAT'S WHAT IT'S ALL ABOUT. THE PEOPLE OVER IN THE ARGENTINE, OF BUENOS AIRES, THEY AREN'T ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE, THEY HAVEN'T GOT A PARLIAMENT TO GO AND ANSWER TO. I'VE GOT A PARLIAMENT TO ANSWER TO, WE ALL HAVE AND ALL THE COUNTRIES WHO ARE SUPPORTING US HAVE PARLIAMENTS ELECTED BY THE PEOPLE, AND THIS IS WHAT THIS WHOLE ARGUMENT IS ALL ABOUT AND IF WE DO NOT RE-ESTABLISH INTERNATIONAL ORDER, IF WE DO NOT SEE THAT WRONG IS RIGHTED, THEN THERE IS A WEAKNESS IN INTERNATIONAL ORDER AND THAT IS AN INTEREST THAT EVERY COUNTRY HAS, IN EVERY CONTINENT, ALL ROUND THE WORLD, AND BRITAIN HAS GOT A PARTICULAR FEELING ABOUT THIS AND IT HAPPENS TO HAVE OCCURRED IN ONE OF OUR TERRITORIES AND THAT IS WHY WE ARE RESPONDING SO STRONGLY AND WHAT WE ARE SO GRATEFUL FOR THE SUPPORT WE'RE GETTING ALL ROUND THE WORLD AND WHY WE HOPE, AND HAVE EVERY REASON TO HOPE, THAT THAT SUPPORT WILL CONTINUE JUST BECAUSE PARLIAMENTARY DEMOCRACY AND THE FREEDOM OF PEOPLE AND THE RIGHT TO HOLD A MEETING LIKE THIS CAN TAKE PLACE. IF WE DON'T ALL STAND TOGETHER AND PUT THIS WRONG RIGHT THEN THERE MUST BE A QUESTIONMARK OVER THE FUTURE RIGHTS OF THE LIBERTIES OF PEOPLES. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

H. FEIN: I THINK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, THAT'S THE POINT TO END. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.