

STATEMENT BY FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY: 30 APRIL  
FALKLAND ISLANDS

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Mr Haig has told us that Argentina has rejected his proposals for a negotiated settlement, and he has just announced this in Washington.

This is a major change in the situation. In deciding not to cooperate in negotiations for a peaceful settlement, the Argentines have confirmed their commitment to aggression in defiance of the UN.

The British people are deeply grateful to the US, and especially to Mr Haig for his remarkable efforts. America and Britain have done everything possible from the start to produce a negotiated settlement.

We now have a new situation and I am extremely glad that the United States has come down decisively on the side of Britain.

To have the world's most powerful state on our side must make Argentina see that aggression cannot pay.

Mr Haig has not published his proposals, so I shall not describe them now.

But yesterday I outlined in the House of Commons the three major elements of a possible agreement: the Argentine withdrawal; an interim administration in the Islands; and the framework for negotiations about the future of the Islands which must of course respect the wishes of the Islanders.

I also spoke in Parliament on the need for Britain to increase its military pressure and to take military measures if necessary, in the exercise of our right to self-defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter.

I am going to Washington tomorrow or on Sunday to review the new situation with Mr Haig and to discuss the next steps. Then I shall go on to New York to see the Secretary-General of the United Nations. These meetings are timely now and will be very much in accord with the wishes of the House of Commons expressed in yesterday's debate.

We shall not abandon our efforts for a peaceful settlement. But Argentina must withdraw, as the Security Council Resolution demanded four weeks ago tomorrow.

Then we shall be entirely ready to move on to the negotiations foreseen in the third point of the same Resolution. A conference or any other kind of negotiation can be considered.

It has been our strategy all along to build up the pressure on Argentina - economic pressure, diplomatic pressure and military pressure.

Now, with US backing, I am more confident than ever that justice will prevail against Argentina's totally illegal aggression.

*Prime Minister*

*APR 30/82*

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This is a major change in the situation. In deciding not to cooperate in negotiations for a peaceful settlement, the Argentines have confirmed their commitment to aggression in defiance of the UN <sup>and</sup> their insistence on taking the sovereignty of the Islands which is a British possession.

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We shall not abandon our efforts for a peaceful settlement. Argentina must withdraw first and British administration restored and then we shall be entirely ready to resume talks about the future of the Falkland Islands. A conference or any other kind of negotiation can be considered.

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