

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP : 0730 HOURS, 9 MAY

UN

1. Sir Anthony Parsons had two meetings with the Secretary-General at which the Secretary-General requested clarification on details of the UK position. Sir A Parsons has asked for instructions before a further meeting later today. Sr Ros, Argentine Deputy Foreign Minister, has also had meetings with the Secretary-General.

Mexico

2. The Mexican Ambassador in London asked when a reply could be given to President Lopez Portillo's proposal, but accepted that this would have to wait until the outcome of the UN Secretary-General's current initiative is known.

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP (DETAILED VERSION) : 0730 HOURS,
9 MAY

UN

(a) Discussions with the Secretary-General

(UKMIS New
York telno.
679)

1. On 8 May Sir A Parsons discussed with the Secretary-General the position reached by both sides on the points in the Aide Mémoire given to the Secretary of State on 2 May (attached for reference). Perez de Cuellar requested clarification from both sides on several points, on five of which Sir A Parsons has requested guidance:-

- (a) the date of 'Time T';
- (b) the length of the period of withdrawal;
- (c) the phasing of the withdrawal of the Task Force;
- (d) the terminal date for diplomatic negotiations;
- (e) the format and venue for those negotiations.

(UKMIS New
York telno.
685)

2. Later on 8 May Sir A Parsons again met the Secretary-General who had heard further from Ros, particularly on the nature of the UN interim administration envisaged by the Argentines. The Secretary-General thought that the Argentine position on interim administration appeared unchanged from that of previous rounds of negotiations, but the Argentines are now making no mention of the continuance of the Islands Councils which had been proposed in the Haig negotiations. Sir A Parsons has already pointed this out. The Secretary-General has as a result asked for details of previous Argentine proposals. The Secretary-General reported Ros as saying that the Argentines were not prejudging the issue of sovereignty. A member of the Secretary-General's staff has commented that this would depend on agreement on appropriate terms of reference for the negotiations.

(UKMIS New
York telno.
686)

3. Sir A Parsons now sees three possibilities:-

- (a) the Argentines have decided to negotiate in good faith (he and the Secretary-General have doubts on this);
- (b) they seek to make us break off negotiations eg. by proposing unacceptable interim administration arrangements in order themselves to dodge blame for an unreasonable stand on sovereignty;
- (c) they have decided that they cannot get what they want now and are preparing the ground to enable them to take over the administration after the interim period ends without a negotiated solution to the dispute.

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Sir A Parsons needs instructions before a further meeting with the Secretary-General at 3.30 local time, today, 9 May. He identifies the most difficult point for consideration as HMG's attitude towards the proposed interim administration.

(b) Attitude of the Secretary-General

4. Sir A Parsons believes that the Secretary-General is working well, has suspicions as to Argentine motives but is frank and open in his comments to us.

MEXICO

(FCO telno. 564 to Mexico City)

5. The Mexican Ambassador made several telephone calls on 8 May. President López Portillo is pressing for the promised full UK response to his offer of a meeting between Galtieri and the Prime Minister. The Ambassador has accepted that the UN Secretary-General's efforts must claim our prior attention and will so report to the President.

Comment

6. The well-briefed activity of Ros in New York has all the appearance of a determined Argentine attempt to engineer a UK break from the Secretary-General's current efforts under circumstances which would leave us facing maximum international criticism. We cannot be seen to be dragging our feet. Instructions are needed in New York by 1830 London time on:-

- (i) the Secretary-General's five points;
- (ii) interim administration;
- (iii) any additional points essential to our position, eg. consultation of the Islanders.

7. The PUS's 10.30 meeting will need to consider whether Ministers should meet to authorise instructions to UKMIS New York. Mr Goulding has indicated by telephone that at today's meeting with the Secretary-General, we shall be expected to put forward positions which we could not easily modify.

(UKMIS New York telno. 679)

8. The Prime Minister's disinclination last night for an OD(SA) meeting was conveyed after she had seen only the report of Sir A Parsons' first meeting with the Secretary-General. She will expect FCO advice on whether an OD(SA) meeting, which could take place at Chequers at about 15.15 today, is necessary. The Secretary of State is expected to leave Liège at around 14.00 local time today.

A J Payne

A J Payne
Emergency Unit

9 May 1982