

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP : 0730 HOURS, 16 MAY 1982

EC Sanctions

1. The Political Committee agreed to refer the decision on renewing sanctions to Foreign Ministers. The Foreign Ministers will meet in Luxembourg at 19.30 hours on 16 May.

Military Action

2. MOD have issued a statement saying that a raid was carried out against military installations and aircraft on Pebble Island. A number of aircraft on the ground and a large ammunition dump were destroyed. The forces concerned have rejoined the Task Force; all returned safely with only two minor casualties.

3. Harriers have carried out further attacks on Port Stanley airfield and associated military installations. All aircraft returned safely.

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP (DETAILED VERSION) :  
07.00, 16 MAY 1982

EC

1. As expected the Political Committee on 15 May did not agree to prolong sanctions. Ministers will meet at 1930 on 16 May in Luxembourg to take a decision. Country positions were:-

(a) Denmark

Agreed to a prolongation of sanctions if there was a general wish among the Ten to do so. The Danish Government could only agree to renewal on the basis of Article 224. Sanctions could be implemented within 2 days by special legislation;

(b) FRG

Ministers would have to decide, preferably at the last moment. The need to remain solidly in support of an ally would govern the German position;

(c) Greece

Position unchanged. Agreement that all possible pressures should be brought to bear on Argentina in a search for a political solution;

(d) France

Solid support for UK insistence that SCR 502 should be implemented in full. Importance attached to solidarity of the Ten. Ministers should discuss and a decision be taken by consensus;

(e) Ireland

Instructions not to agree to renewal. The Irish Representative outside the meeting expressed the view that only the intervention of the Prime Minister by telephone with Mr Haughey before Foreign Ministers meet in Luxembourg could move the Irish position;

(f) Italy

Colombo is in favour of delaying a decision as long as possible. Ministers should reinforce their condemnation of Argentina and their emphasis on SCR 502. The arms embargo should be maintained and strengthened. Economic sanctions had attracted much criticism and public and political opinion was against renewal. Italy argued for a gesture towards Argentina to encourage a peaceful solution. This proposal with a further suggestion of introduction of selective sanctions or a temporary suspension of sanctions was discouraged by the

A  
Brussels  
telno.180)  
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COREU tele-  
gram of 15 May)

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(Brussels  
telno.182)

Commission and the Presidency;

(g) Luxembourg

Solidarity with the UK and full agreement to renew sanctions;

(h) Netherlands

Agree to renew for a further month. Delay could give the wrong signal to Argentina;

(i) Belgium

Continue to support the UK and agree to renewal for one month or more.

2. The Commission identified technical reasons for continuing on the basis of Article 113. A switch to Article 224 could create a gap since only Denmark was likely to be ready to legislate immediately. The Commission suggested outside the meeting that perhaps the Danish Government could take parallel action under Article 224 in accordance with a general decision taken under Article 113.

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(UKREP Brussels  
telno.1962)

COREPER (Ambassadors)

3. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that since the Political Committee had just agreed to refer the decision on sanctions to Ministers, a text of the Draft Regulation could be agreed once Ministers had reached a decision. The President accepted this but asked Permanent Representatives to consider how long it might take their Governments to introduce national measures if they should be agreed.

Prime Minister's Telephone Call to Mr Spadolini

4. Arrangements are in hand for the Prime Minister to telephone Mr Spadolini at 9.30 this morning.

Secretary of State's Meeting with Mr Haig

5. Officials in Mr Haig's party in Athens have been informed of the Secretary of State's availability immediately prior to the Ministers' meeting in Luxembourg and will be telephoning to arrange a meeting during the morning.

Comment

6. The Political Committee discussion went as expected. It is likely that with the intervention of the Prime Minister with Italy and perhaps with Ireland, a decision will be taken tonight to renew sanctions. Delay could be serious.

7. OD(SA) will meet today to take a position on negotiations at New York where there have been no further developments.

*A Payne*

16 May 1982

A J Payne

Emergency Unit