

FALKLAND ISLANDS: FCO SITREP

0730 HOURS, 21 MAY 1982

United Nations Developments

1. The UN Secretary-General declared yesterday evening (New York time) that his peace efforts had come to an end. Earlier in the day the UK Permanent Representative had told the Secretary-General that his aide mémoire differed in important respects from our position and that it differed fundamentally from the Argentine position. Even if acceptable to both parties as a basis for negotiation, it would have taken days if not weeks to know if success could have been achieved. Argentina failed entirely to respond to the aide mémoire, although the Argentine Foreign Minister is reported to have said in Buenos Aires last night that his country wanted the Secretary-General to continue his peace mission.

2. The President of the UN Security Council is likely to call informal consultations of the Council today. Further developments in the Council are difficult to predict at this stage but a formal meeting today is unlikely unless there are major military developments.

World Reaction

3. Posts have been expounding the British Government's position on the basis of yesterday's Parliamentary statements and documents. In Washington Mr Haig was complimentary about our recent tactics.

New Peruvian Initiative

4. The President of Peru yesterday handed to the British Ambassador a new peace formula which, however, avoids the main points at issue between the two parties. In a subsequent press conference the President criticised recent British texts as very discouraging and said that he had therefore put forward new proposals. He added that Sr Costa Mendez had assured him that the Argentine Government were urgently examining the Peruvian formula and that a reply from President Galtieri was expected shortly. The Presidents of Venezuela and Colombia had expressed support.

EMERGENCY UNIT

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