

FALKLAND ISLANDS: FCO SITREP: 0715 HOURS 23 MAY

UN

1. The Security Council debate continued but without a draft resolution appearing.

Military Action

2. The MOD issued a statement which reported further consolidation of our bridgehead on E. Falkland. There were no reports of enemy action. Sea Harriers attacked and severely damaged an Argentine patrol boat.

Pope's Message

3. The Prime Minister received a message from the Pope calling for an immediate ceasefire to open the way to a peaceful solution of the dispute.

NATO

4. A meeting of the North Atlantic Council reaffirmed support for the British position.

Latin America

5. The President of Colombia and the President of the Dominican Republic have both sent messages to the Prime Minister. The President of Peru has said that the Argentines have accepted his peace proposals. The Government of Mexico in a public statement appealed for an immediate cessation of hostilities and a renewal of the search for a negotiated settlement.

EMERGENCY UNIT

23 May 1982

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FALKLAND ISLANDS: FCO SITREP (DETAILED VERSION): 0700 HRS, 23 MAY

[Due to late transmission UN/US material is placed at the end of today's Sitrep]

North Atlantic Council Meeting, 22 May

A UKDel NATO
tel no 251.
B UKDel NATO
tel no 252.
C Minute
Penfold-
Payne.

1. This resulted in a public reaffirmation of alliance support for us and an expression of solidarity with our recent action. The statement was weaker than a draft circulated by our Ambassador which ran into trouble with the French, Italians and Germans although it received US support.

The Pope's message to the Prime Minister

D FCO Tel
no 16 to
the Holy See

2. The Pope appeals to the Prime Minister to 'act decisively in order to secure an immediate ceasefire that will open the way to a peaceful solution of the dispute'.

Latin America

(a) Peruvian Initiative

E Lima Tel
no 192

3. According to President Belaunde the Argentines have accepted, in principle, the latest Peruvian ideas with certain reservations which President Belaunde thinks may not be insuperable. Reportedly the Argentines are receptive to the idea of an "equidistant" withdrawal of forces and are not opposed to a UN administration for one year while negotiations take place. In the event of negotiations failing, the Argentines would return the problem to the UN. The text of the Peruvian proposal is at Flag F .

F Lima Tel
no 187

(b) Colombian President's message to the Prime Minister

G FCO Tel
no 107 to
Bogota

4. The President expresses interest in the Peruvian initiative and also offers Colombian assistance in achieving peace. HM Ambassador Bogota reports that the Colombian and Peruvian Presidents spoke to each other recently and that knowledge of the Colombian President's message to the Prime Minister is public there.

H Bogota
tel no 122

(c) Dominican President's message to the Prime Minister

I FCO Tel
no 21 to
Santo Domingo

5. The President expresses deep concern about the crisis, appealing to the Prime Minister to make a supreme effort to preserve peace through negotiations leading to an honourable understanding for both sides. An identical message has been sent to President Galtieri and a similar message to the UN Secretary-General.

J Santo
Domingo tel
no 43

UN

(a) Security Council Debate

K UKMis New
York tel 821

6. Spain, Uruguay, Venezuela, Soviet Union, Mexico, Cuba, Bolivia, Panama, Canada, United States and Guatemala spoke. Sir A Parsons spoke in right of reply and drew a mild rejoinder from Ros (Argentina). Most speakers said the Security Council

L UKMis New
York tel no
823

should adopt a resolution providing for an immediate ceasefire and a mandate for the Secretary-General to resume his efforts. Of the Latins the Venezuelan and Panamanian Foreign Ministers were abusive; the others made reasonably moderate statements, notably Guatemala. The Soviet Union was hostile but not abusive. Canada was excellent. The US statement was a little too even-handed (a point which our Embassy, who had been given an advance text, had already made to the State Department). Mrs Kirkpatrick made small but important changes to the advance text.

M Washing-
ton tel 1864
N Washing-
ton tel 1865

(b) Sir A Parsons' assessment

O UKMis New 7. The Council is in a jam. It is clear that a large number of
Yorktel 822 delegations are anxious to avoid precipitating a British veto but there is an overwhelming desire to bring about an end to the fighting. It seems unlikely that there will be a vote before 24 May at the earliest. Sir A Parsons has been asked to say what sort of language we could live with. He has refused to be drawn into discussion except to say 'Argentine withdrawal'.

P FCO tel no (c) Securing speakers favourable to our cause
451 to UKMis

New York 8. As suggested by London, Sir A Parsons is seeking to promote
Q UKMis New helpful speeches. Some of our partners and allies are claiming
York 817 they need instructions from capitals. Sir A Parsons has asked our
R UKMis New missions to urge that instructions should be sent today (UKMis New
York 819 York tel no 822 at flag 'O'), so that they will be able to speak in the
Council on 24 May providing some balance to Latin American rhetoric.
Sir A Parsons is in contact with the Commonwealth Secretary-General who is being helpful.

(d) UK Statement on military action

S UKMis New 9. The Argentines have circulated their version of military
York 824 events as documents of the Security Council. In order to set the record straight Sir A Parsons would be grateful for a self-contained document covering events since 19 May. He asks that this should reach him by 231330Z.

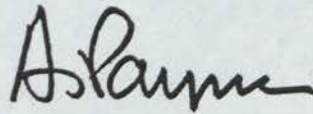
Comment

10. The Pope's message, which we understand has also gone to Galtieri comes amid growing confidence that the visit to UK will take place. It may help the Pope to justify a favourable decision on the visit.

11. Since the stalling of the UN Secretary-General's efforts on 19/20 May it has become open season for Latin American initiatives. The Presidents of Peru, Colombia and the Dominican Republic have sent messages to the Prime Minister. The Presidents of Mexico and Brazil did so earlier. All will have seen advantage in such moves for Latin American solidarity and their own relations with Argentina. So far none of these initiatives contains new elements, or offers more than token help. It will nevertheless be important to maintain good relations with individual Latin American capitals if possible.

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12. The Security Council debate has so far lived up to Sir A Parsons' expectations. We will do what we can to secure helpful interventions today. Ramphal's help is of value. Talk of resolutions is circulating in corridors but if the tabling of texts can be put off until tomorrow, this would suit us well. We are producing urgently the summary of military events since 19 May for which Sir A Parsons has asked.



A J Payne
Emergency Unit

23 May 1982

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