

FALKLAND ISLANDS : FCO SITREP (DETAILED VERSION): 0700 HRS,
26 MAY 1982

UN

A: (UKMIS New (a) Security Council Debate
York telno.854)

1. The debate resumed on 25 May. There were 9 speakers: Guyana, Togo, Jordan, Netherlands, Chile, Italy, India, Panama and Argentina. Sir Anthony Parsons made a statement in right of reply to Costa Mendez whose speech was moderate but defensive and lack-lustre. Our support emerged more clearly as the debate developed. For this we should be especially grateful to Kenya, Guyana and Belgium.

B: (UKMIS New
York telno.
855)

C: (FCO telno. (b) Draft Resolutions
460 to UKMIS
New York)

2. Instructions were sent to Sir A Parsons on the various draft Resolutions. There was a desire throughout the Council to terminate the proceedings on 25 May without a veto. The text of the Irish draft Resolution was amended to incorporate the Non-Aligned amendments and those proposed by us. Sir A Parsons was then instructed to vote in its favour. However, Costa Mendez wished to study the draft in detail and it was decided to postpone a vote until 26 May. Sir A Parsons feels that there is a reasonable chance that the revised draft will be adopted today.

D: (UKMIS New
York telno.
847)

E: (UKMIS New
York telno.
848)

F: (FCO telno.
463 to UKMIS
New York)

G: (UKMIS New US Attitude
York telno.850)

3. Secretary of State Haig is reported to be upset at the press leak of his message to the Foreign and Commonwealth Secretary.

I: (UKMIS New River Plate
York telno.851)

J: (UKMIS
telno.852)

K: (UKMIS
telno.853)

L: (Washington
telno.1901)

M: (Bogota
telno.127)

N: (Asuncion
telno.77)

O: (Montevideo
telno.374)

4. The Foreign Ministers of Argentina, Nicaragua, Panama and Venezuela have circulated a document in the Security Council. The text complains of the extension of the Exclusion Zone to the River Plate. Sir A Parsons has drafted, and circulated, a rejoinder which explains our position.

5. Our position appears to be generally misunderstood - perhaps deliberately. Our Embassies in Washington, Bogota and Asuncion have been approached with requests for clarification in advance of the meeting of the Rio Treaty signatories on 27 May. The uncertainty persists, despite a press statement from the President of Uruguay saying that there was no blockade of the River Plate.

Latin American Attitudes

P: (FCO telno. (a) Colombia
108 to Bogota)

Q: (Bogota
telno.128)

6. In a message to the Colombian President, the Prime Minister has urged him to press Argentina for a withdrawal of forces. The Colombian Foreign Minister has stressed that Britain should lobby hard at the forthcoming OAS meeting.

R: (FCO telno. (b) Dominican Republic
22 to Santo
Domingo)

7. The Prime Minister has also urged President Guzman to put pressure on Argentina for a withdrawal of forces.

(c) Peru

S: (Lima tel. No.198) 8. The Peruvian President told our Ambassador of a telephone conversation with the Colombian President, agreeing that all their efforts should be dedicated to avoiding a final confrontation on the Falklands. The Colombian President now proposes to telephone the Prime Minister.

(d) Mexico

T: (Mexico City telno.432) 9. The Mexican President's offer of help will provide the occasion for a personal message from the Prime Minister; preferably before the OAS meeting.

(e) Panama

U: (Panama City telno. 86) 10. The Panamanian Ambassador's remarks at the Security Council have been widely criticised.

OAS Meeting

V: (Santiago telno.259) 11. Argentina has sought Chilean support for an OAS draft Resolution. Its five points include: condemnation of British aggression; cessation of hostilities with return to 'natural bases'; resumption of negotiations at the UN; adoption of measures by OAS states to discourage the UK and assist Argentina.

W: (Caracas telno.180) Withdrawal of Ambassadors

12. Venezuelan efforts to persuade Latin American countries to withdraw their Ambassadors from London have not been successful so far.

Non-Aligned Meeting

X: (FCO to Dacca telno. 156) 13. Posts have been instructed to lobby NAM member countries before the meeting of Foreign Ministers in Havana from 31 May to 4 June.

Y: (Oslo telno.113) Import Embargo

14. The Norwegian ban on Argentine imports is to remain in force indefinitely.

Comment

15. At the United Nations we must now wait and see whether the delayed Argentine decision on the Irish/Non-Aligned draft will lead to a reopening of the package today. If so, we will need to give Sir A Parsons further instructions. Otherwise there is no immediate action required.

16. Since instructing Sir A Parsons to vote for the draft Resolution, one minor textual change has appeared in the final draft circulated (paragraph 4 of UKMIS New York telegram No.856). Sir A Parsons does not consider this to be of substance.

/17.

17. Argentine/Panamanian attempts to score propaganda points by distorting our position on the effect of the 12-mile limit on Uruguayan maritime rights in the River Plate have had some impact at the United Nations and with Latin American governments. We will need to brief posts today to set the record straight for the OAS meeting.

18. Lobbying instructions are being sent to posts for the OAS meeting. Our Ambassador in Mexico has recommended that a personal message from the Prime Minister to President Lopez Portillo today would be helpful.



26 May 1982

P R Fearn
Emergency Unit