

*United States*

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FM WASHINGTON 250045Z

TO PRIORITY F C O

TELNO 2239 OF 24 JUNE 1982,

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK, UKDIS GENEVA IN NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK,  
BONN, PARIS,  
INFO SAVING CONSULS GENERAL IN USA.

## PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON

1. I THINK THAT WHAT PROMPTED THE AMERICAN INVITATION FOR A SHORT VISIT HERE AFTER THE UN WAS THEIR WISH TO SHOW RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR THE PRIME MINISTER IN THE IMMEDIATE AFTERMATH OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS SUCCESS. THE MAY ALSO HAVE WANTED TO BE ABLE TO DEMONSTRATE TO THE LATIN AMERICANS THAT, THOUGH THEY HAD COME DOWN ON THE BRITISH SIDE IN THE CONFLICT, THEY WERE READY TO TRY TO PERSUADE US "NOT TO SLAM DOORS" TO USE HAIG'S PHRASE TO ME, REGARDING THE FUTURE. IN THE EVENT, THOUGH THE FALKLANDS WERE DISCUSSED BETWEEN THE PRIME MINISTER AND THE PRESIDENT, THERE WAS NO MENTION OF THE FUTURE: THE TALK WAS EXCLUSIVELY ABOUT THE IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS.
2. THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT RECEIVED EXTENSIVE MEDIA COVERAGE. THE PRIME MINISTER GAVE INTERVIEWS IN NEW YORK ON 23 JUNE WHICH WERE CARRIED LIVE ON ALL THREE OF THE NETWORK NEWS PROGRAMMES. IN ADDITION, YESTERDAY'S THREE MAIN EVENING NEWS PROGRAMMES (WHICH HAVE A COMBINED AUDIENCE OF OVER 17 MILLION) ALL COVERED THE PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO THE WHITE HOUSE AND HER SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE. THERE WAS FURTHER COVERAGE OF THIS MORNING'S TELEVISION PROGRAMMES.
3. I WAS STRUCK BY HOW ALMOST ALL THE QUESTIONS IN THE PRESS CONFERENCE WERE DEVOTED TO THE FALKLANDS AND TO PROBING OUR INTENTIONS FOR THE FUTURE AND THIS IS REFLECTED IN TODAY'S COVERAGE, THE MAIN THEME BEING WHAT THE WASHINGTON POST CALLS THE PRIME MINISTER'S TOUGHLY-WORDED REASSERTION OF BRITISH SOVEREIGNTY. CONTRARY TO PRESS EXPECTATIONS AND TO SOME PRIOR BRIEFING BY THE LATIN AMERICAN LOBBY IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT. THE PRESS NOTE THAT THE PRESIDENT BROUGHT NO PRESSURE TO BEAR ON US ON THE FUTURE OF THE FALKLANDS. THE WASHINGTON POST CONTRASTS WHAT IT CALLS THE PRESIDENT'S BLANDLY-WORDED STATEMENT TO THE PRESS AFTER THE MEETING WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S PERFORMANCE AT HER SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE AND HER REITERATION THAT THE FALKLANDS ARE BRITISH AND WILL REMAIN SO. THE PRESS ALSO NOTE THAT IN A SUBSEQUENT PRESS CONFERENCE, WHEN HAIG BRIEFED JOURNALISTS ON THE AMERICAN VIEW OF THE TALKS, THERE WAS NO SUGGESTION THAT THE US DISAGREED WITH THE UK APPROACH. HAIG IS QUOTED AS SAYING: "WE WOULDN'T EXPECT ANYONE TO TELL US HOW TO DEAL WITH OUR PROPERTY AND WE'RE NOT GOING TO PRESUME TO TELL HER." WHEN ASKED FOR THE US VIEW ON SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 502, HAIG REFERRED TO THE PRIME MINISTER'S REMARKS COMMENTING THAT MRS THATCHER HAD STATED THE POSITION VERY CLEARLY.

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4. THE PRESS PICK UP THE FACT THAT THE MEETING AT THE WHITE HOUSE WAS USED BY THE PRIME MINISTER AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO RUB IN HER CONCERN ABOUT THE EFFECT OF THE US ADMINISTRATION'S LATEST DECISIONS ON THE ABILITY OF JOHN BROWN TO FULFIL THE CONTRACTS IT HAS ENTERED INTO FOR THE SIBERIAN GAS PIPELINE. THE WASHINGTON POST REPORTS THIS AS THE ONLY APPARENT DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT AND THE PRIME MINISTER, BUT NOTES THAT THERE IS NO SUGGESTION THAT THE US IS GOING TO CHANGE ITS POSITION. AT HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY HAIG SAID THAT : "JUST AS MRS THATCHER HAS HER PRINCIPLES, OUR PRESIDENT HAS HIS".

5. UKDIS GENEVA IN NEW YORK HAVE ALREADY REPORTED ON THE WARM RECEPTION WHICH THE PRIME MINISTER WAS ACCORDED IN NEW YORK YESTERDAY. THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE PRESS COVERAGE OF HER VISIT TO NEW YORK WHICH ALSO DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE ENTHUSIASM WITH WHICH HER SPEECH WAS GREETED BY THE UNITED STATES.

HENDERSON

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