

PS
 PS/LADY YOUNG
 PS/WHITNEY
 PS/RIFKIND
 PS/PCS
~~MR J BIRCHALL~~ SIR J
~~MR I BIRCHALL~~ MR FREELAND
 SIR W HARDING
 MR GOODALL
 MR O'NEILL
~~MR GORDON LENNOX~~
 SIR C TICKELL
 MR C THOMAS
 MR WESTON
 MR MILES
 D/PSD (2)
 D/SAD
 D/ED
~~MR J BIRCHALL~~
 D/NEES DEPT
 D/ED
 D/ED(3)
 D/ED
 D/PLANNING STAFF

PS/NO 10 DOWNING ST (3)

PS/S OF S FOR DEFENCE
 MR ~~ROBERT~~ AUSD STAFF MOD
 MR NICHOLL
 PS/CHANCELLOR)
 MISS M E CURD) TREASURY
 MR LITTLER)

SIR R ARMSTRONG)
 MR ~~A D S~~ GOODALL) CABINET
 DIO (CARLEDGE)

~~MR V A PATTISON, FID, ODA~~
 MR POWER, SAD, ODA

MR A FORTNAM IAT/ D. TRANSPORT

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LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL: ADJOURNMENT DEBATE

SUMMARY

COUNCILLORS CRITICISED DELAYS BY, SUSPECTED MOTIVES OF, FCO ON NEW CONSTITUTION; CALLED FOR MORE SAY IN OWN AFFAIRS; UNDERLINED ISLANDERS' AVERSION TO TALKS WITH ARGENTINA; CRITICISED MPS RECENT VISIT TO BUENOS AIRES AND URGED CAUTION ON DEVELOPMENT.

1. LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL CLOSED THIS MORNING AFTER A SHORT ADJOURNMENT DEBATE AT TIMES CRITICAL OF FCO DELAYS AND DISINGENUOUSNESS OVER THE NEW CONSTITUTION. THE MOST TELLING SPEECH WAS BY CHEEK. THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE CONSTITUTION HAD BEEN SET UP OVER TWO YEARS AGO AND THEIR PROPOSALS SENT TO LONDON. HE BELIEVED THE FCO HAD NOW DONE A COMPLETE "RE-CONSTITUTION" OF THEM. HE HAD THOUGHT COUNCILLORS AND FCO WERE TO WORK TOGETHER ON THE CONSTITUTION, WITH COUNCILLORS PROVIDING THE IDEAS AND THE FCO THE EXPERTISE; BUT THAT NO LONGER SEEMED THE CASE. HE COULD SEE NO REASON FOR THE DRAFT NOT BEING SEEN BY COUNCILLORS NOW.

2. TONY BLAKE SAID THAT, IF PRESS LEAKS WERE CORRECT, "THOSE ELEMENTS" OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION TO WHICH THEY REFERRED WOULD NOT (NOT) BE RECEIVED WELL IN COUNCIL. THE ARGENTINES HAD ALREADY COMMENTED ON THE ALLEGED SEPARATION OF THE DEPENDENCIES FROM THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, SEEING THIS AS A SIGN THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE FOR THE FUTURE HAND-OVER OF THE ISLANDS. ON REASONS FOR DELAY, HE SAID THE FCO, OR THEIR LEGAL ADVISERS, MUST EITHER BE TOTALLY INCOMPETENT OR WERE USING FALKLAND ISLANDERS' DESIRE TO REMAIN AS A COLONY AGAINST THEM. COUNCILLORS SHOULD SIT ROUND THE TABLE WITH OFFICIALS AND SORT OUT THE NEW CONSTITUTION NOW. WHEN AN EARLY DISSOLUTION OF LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL WAS SUGGESTED SHORTLY AFTER THE CONFLICT, COUNCILLORS HAD AGREED THAT NEW ELECTIONS SHOULD WAIT UNTIL THE NEW CONSTITUTION CAME INTO FORCE. MEMBERS SHOULD NOW SERIOUSLY CONSIDER DISSOLVING THE COUNCIL IN JANUARY 1985 WITH OR WITHOUT THE NEW CONSTITUTION (A PROPOSAL COMMENDED BY CLLR GOSS).

3. CLLR PECK SAW IT AS A DELIBERATE MOVE BY THE FCO TO DELAY THE NEW CONSTITUTION. THE FCO HAD GONE ABOUT IT IN A MANNER VERY DISTASTEFUL TO COUNCIL. COUNCIL HAD SOUGHT THE ADVICE OF THE

3. CLLR PECK SAW IT AS A DELIBERATE MOVE BY THE FCO TO DELAY THE NEW CONSTITUTION. THE FCO HAD GONE ABOUT IT IN A MANNER VERY D I S T A S T E F U L TO COUNCIL. COUNCIL HAD SOUGHT THE ADVICE OF THE ELECTORATE AND SENT THEIR VIEWS TO LONDON. HE WAS NOT GOING TO HAVE THEIR PROPOSALS HACHED ABOUT BY THE FCO TO ENABLE THEM TO MANIPULATE COUNCILLORS. THE PRIME MINISTER HAD SAID MANY TIMES SINCE 1982 THAT THE ISLANDERS SHOULD HAVE A BIGGEE IN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. WHAT WOULD SHE THINK NOWEEEEHAVE A BIGGER SAY IN THEIR OWN AFFAIRS. WHAT WOULD SHE THINK IF SHE CAME TO THE ISLANDS NOW? IT HAD BECOME CLEAR TO HIM DURING THE SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE ESTIMATES THAT ISLANDERS HAD IN FACT VERY LITTLE CONTROL OVER THEIR OWN AFFAIRS.

4. IN A STEADYING AND SOBER DEFENCE, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE TOLD COUNCILLORS THAT IT WAS NOT(NOT) THE FCO'S OR THE PM'S INTENTION TO I M P E D E C O N S T I T U T I O N A L D E V E L O P M E N T, OR THAT THIS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT EXCEPT IN FULL CONSULTATION WITH COUNCILLORS. HE WAS HOWEVER CONCERNED ABOUT THE SPEED OF THE PROCESS AND AGREED THAT THE SOONER EVERYONE COULD GET AROUND THE TABLE, THE SOONER THERE WOULD BE MOVEMENT.

5. ON FUTURE TALKS WITH ARGENTINA, BINNIE WAS SURE THAT MANY WHO TALKED ABOUT THE ISLANDS DID NOT KNOW ISLANDERS' VIEWS, WHICH COULD BE SIMPLY STATED. "WE DON'T WANT TALKS WITH ARGENTINES. WE DON'T WANT JOINT PROJECTS. WE DON'T WANT TO KNOW". CHEEK SUPPORTED BINNIE'S STATEMENT, ADDING THAT HE WAS CERTAIN THAT THE MAJORITY OF ISLANDERS WHOLE-HEARTEDLY AGREED WITH IT.

6. TONY BLAKE CRITICISED THE RECENT VISIT TO ARGENTINA OF FOULKES AND PARTY. HE BELIEVED THAT THEY HAD DONE SERIOUS DAMAGE BOTH TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND TO HMG BY PROPOSING NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARGENTINES LEADING TO TALKS ON SOVEREIGNTY.

7. PECK MAINTAINED THAT IT WAS FOR THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO GIVE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS A 200-MILE FISHING ZONE NOW. FIG WOULD GET NO MORE REVENUE FROM THE SHEEP'S BACK. THERE MUST BE NO MORE DRAGGING OF FEET.

8. BINNIE VOICED HIS CONCERN THAT THE ISLANDS WERE TRYING TO MOVE TOO FAST, GIVEN THE WORK FORCE AVAILABLE. THEY WERE BEING PRESSURED FROM OUTSIDE FOR DEVELOPMENT. THE COST OF IMPORTED LABOUR WOULD LEAD THE ISLANDS CLOSER TO GRANT-IN-AID, WHICH ALL COUNCILLORS AND ISLANDERS WISH ED TO AVOID.

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