

THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

OPENING STATEMENT BY LORD CARRINGTON

I have to confirm that an Argentine military attack on Port Stanley in the Falkland Islands has taken place and that Port Stanley is now occupied by Argentine military forces. Her Majesty's Government totally condemns this unprovoked aggression which is in flagrant disregard of the appeal made by both the Secretary General of the United Nations and by the President of the Security Council yesterday for both sides to refrain from the use of force and to resolve present tensions by diplomatic means.

It is worth, if I may for a moment, looking back at the history of the past two weeks. On 19 March the Commander of the British Antarctic Survey at Grytviken on South Georgia reported that an Argentine navy transport vessel was anchored at nearby Leith harbour and a party of about 60 Argentinians had set up camp and had raised the Argentine flag. The Base Commander told them that they had no right to land on South Georgia without seeking the required permission from the British authorities at Grytviken which is the only point of entry for immigration purposes. He requested them either to seek the necessary clearance or to leave.

Her Majesty's Government sought immediate clarification from the Argentine Government, making clear that we regarded this illegal presence as potentially serious and asking the Argentines to arrange for the departure of the ship and the party. The ship and most of the party did leave on 22 March. But a number of Argentinians remained. HMS Endurance was ordered to the area to assist as necessary.

Since then we have made repeated requests to the Argentine Government for them to regularise the position of the Argentine party, either by arranging their departure or by seeking the correct authority. We made it clear that while we regarded the salvage contract on which the men were employed as being quite straight-forward, we could not accept that they should remain illegally in South Georgia. We emphasised throughout to the Argentine Government that we nonetheless wished to do everything possible to avoid this incident

/developing

developing into a serious confrontation, We have made and our still making all possible efforts through diplomatic channels. However all our initiatives were rejected and the Argentine position became increasingly uncompromising. They insisted that South Georgia was Argentine territory and asserted that the Argentine men at Leith would be given all necessary protection by the Argentine Government.

In a further attempt to avoid what was now clearly developing into a most dangerous situation, I sent a message to the Argentine Foreign Minister proposing the despatch to Buenos Aires of a personal emissary to work out some means of settling this issue peacefully. On 1 April the Foreign Minister flatly rejected this proposal, claiming that the diplomatic channel was now closed and that any further discussion would be simply to arrange the modalities of the transfer to Argentina of sovereignty over the Falkland Islands and the Falkland Island dependencies. In this critical situation, following a personal appeal by the United Nations Secretary General to the British and Argentine Governments, we sought an emergency meeting of the Security Council on 1 April, which led to a statement by the President of the Security Council calling on both sides to refrain from the use of force. Our representative did so and associated himself with this statement but the Argentine representative did not.

It was now clear, and this was yesterday, that the Argentine Government were bent on nothing less than the forcible occupation of the Falkland Islands and to prevent this we sought the assistance of other Governments, including the United States Government, but all their efforts, including a personal appeal from President Reagan to the Argentine President were rejected. And it is now confirmed that an Argentine naval force landed troops today at Port Stanley and have seized control of the town. We do not have full details of the situation there.

The Argentine Charge d'Affaires has been summoned to the Foreign Office to be informed that diplomatic relations have been broken off and that Argentinian diplomatic personnel are asked to leave the United Kingdom within four working days. I have instructed Sir Anthony Parsons, United Kingdom Representative at the United Nations, to ask for an /urgent

urgent meeting of the United Nations Security Council. This he has done and it should be meeting at this moment.

Transcript by
JAMES LEE of:

PRESS CONFERENCE GIVEN BY THE SECRETARY OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH AFFAIRS, THE RT. HON.
THE LORD CARRINGTON AND THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR
DEFENCE, THE RT. HON. JOHN NOTT MP AT THE FCO ON
FRIDAY 2 APRIL 1982.

LORD CARRINGTON - Opening Statement as per typewritten copy.

MR. NOTT - Opening Statement as per typewritten copy.

QUESTION & ANSWER SESSION

MICHAEL TURNER (SUNDAY EXPRESS)

Can Mr. Nott tell us what has happened to the Marines
in the Falkland Islands, whether they have been engaged in
action, whether any shots have been exchanged?

MR. NOTT

Since earlier in the day, our communications with the
Falkland Islands have been very unsatisfactory and I cannot
give you at the moment details of precisely what has happened
in the Falkland Islands.

KEITH GRAVES (BBC)

In view of the fact that you say there is a substantial
naval task force being prepared, does this mean that we are
planning a military reaction? I mean, presumably that force
is going to go to the area and there is a danger of the two
forces clashing.

MR. NOTT

I made the point that we have had a considerable number of naval ships at sea for some period of time. So far as the force that you referred to, Mr. Graves, is concerned, that is being put on immediate readiness for operations and it is being prepared at this moment. It has not yet been given orders to sail.

MR. GRAVES

I am sorry, I go back to my question. Presumably, you are going to send that force, otherwise you would not be preparing them. Does that mean that you are preparing a military response and there is going to be a clash?

MR. NOTT

I have told you, it is being put on immediate readiness for operations, but it has not yet been given orders to sail.

MR. GRAVES

Are you going to give it the orders?

MR. NOTT

I have told you, it has not yet been given orders to sail.

MICHAEL EVANS

Apart from the substantial task force, it has been reported that a small contingent might be sent out prior to that. Can you comment on that at all?

MR. NOTT

I am not prepared to comment about the forces that we now have at sea.

JOHN HARRISON (DAILY MAIL)

Opposition MPs, late this afternoon, were saying that this task force should have been prepared at least a month ago when warning signs were clear and that because of the delay, you as Defence Secretary should resign. Could you comment on that.

MR. NOTT

Well, that is a lot of nonsense isn't it? I do not think I would take much notice of that. I made it absolutely clear that if we had made an earlier move to prepare the kind of task force that is now being prepared, we would have precipitated quite possibly a military response, the very kind of thing on the part of the Argentine that we were trying to avoid by diplomatic means. We have been trying to settle this matter peacefully and to have prepared a large task force whilst we were doing so would have been a very foolish move indeed.

MR. MONCREIFF (PRESS ASSOCIATION)

Does the Secretary of State regard this action by the Argentinians as an act of war?

MR. NOTT

I leave that to the Foreign Secretary.

LORD CARRINGTON

Well, the answer to that is that under Article 51 of the United Nations Charter, any state which is the victim of an armed attack has the inherent right of individual or collective self-defence until the Security Council has taken measures necessary to maintain international peace and security, and this right of self-defence clearly comprehends any military or naval action which might be necessary to repel or expel any invading force.

??? (BBC)

Is it true to say, do you think, that the Government has actually been caught napping by the whole exercise and has been totally surprised by what has happened?

LORD CARRINGTON

Well, I think you could say, could you not, if you have a knowledge of this situation, that this could have happened any time in the last 15 years. The Argentine Republic is 400 miles away from the Falkland Islands and we are 8,000 miles away. I think the Defence Secretary would probably agree that to have a force of sufficient size to deter the sort of force which has now landed on the Falkland Islands and keep it there for 15 years, would have been quite out of the question. And if I might just answer one other thing that is said: it is quite interesting; I think one ought to realise the scale of this problem; that if the naval task force had sailed, the task force to which the Secretary of State is referring had sailed on the same day as the first salvage contractor landed in Georgia, they would still not be in the Falkland Islands.

QUESTION (BRAZILIAN TELEVISION)

Mr. Nott, you referred to the preparation of a task force by sea. Is there any preparation going on on another kind of task force by air, for instance?

MR. NOTT

It would be foolish of me to give you the full details of the preparations that are now in hand or of the disposition of military forces that we have already made. This is clearly a situation of great delicacy and I must protect the position of our forces in that respect.

JOHN DICKIE (DAILY MAIL)

Secretary of State, do you accept it as an obligation of your Government to restore the freedom of the Falkland Islanders as soon as possible and to rid the Islands of the invaders, no matter how long it takes?

LORD CARRINGTON

What the Lord Privy Seal said in the House of Commons - and I think he summed it up very well - he said we are taking the appropriate military as well as diplomatic measures to sustain our rights under international law.

JOHN MILLER (DAILY TELEGRAPH)

Can we just clear this up? Can you get through to Port Stanley? Have you got through to Port Stanley or are you in fact confirming that the Argentinians have invaded from some other source somewhere else like the Americans monitoring or Endurance or something like that?

LORD CARRINGTON

There have been a number of reports. A lot of them have come from the Argentine itself. There have been reports from the Argentine Government and Argentine domestic radio. The American ambassador and an American admiral who has been visiting Buenos Aires have both been told of the invasion. A British research ship picked up a certain amount of traffic which led to the conclusion that this had happened. The base at Grytviken also picked that up and there was a very short scrap of conversation on a telex line from Port Stanley which bore it out, and I think all these bits of evidence lead one to confirm that this has happened. As the Defence Secretary has said, we really had very little knowledge ourselves of what is happening in Port Stanley or has happened.

EDWIN ROTH (TAGESPIEGEL, WEST BERLIN)

Look! As you have repeatedly cited and quoted the United Nations including during the last two days in Jerusalem, after the success of the special appeal of the United Nations Secretary-General today or yesterday, can you now understand the people who have no particular confidence in the United Nations after what has happened?

LORD CARRINGTON

Well I think that is rather a premature remark.

KEITH GRAVES

You said there had been a scrap of a telex message. Was that received in London?

LORD CARRINGTON

It was picked up. I am afraid I do not know quite where it was picked up. Can anybody help me?

KEITH GRAVES

I mean, who got it through? Was it a citizen, was it the Governor?

LORD CARRINGTON

It was a service message between the operators of commercial telex.

KEITH GRAVES

I mean, what did it say? Did it say "We are under attack" or what?

LORD CARRINGTON

It said that thousands of Argentinians were there and there were only 1800 Falkland Islanders.

KEITH GRAVES

It did say that and then the telex went dead?

LORD CARRINGTON

And then it went dead.

JERRY LEWIS

Lord Carrington, was it not the case that in 1977, when the Labour Government were faced with a similar threat that

they sent the Navy down there and because the Navy was there, they were able to negotiate from a position of strength? And secondly, will you be coming to the bar of the House of Commons tomorrow morning, as requested by one labour back-bencher?

LORD CARRINGTON

I think that what happened in 1977 was because the Argentinians had made a decision not to invade the Falkland Islands. The force that was sent down there was of course quite inadequate in terms of what we have seen the Argentinians display today and there is no doubt, as I think the Defence Secretary said, that if you are to mount a deterrent against the Argentinian invasion of the Falkland Islands, you need a very big task force indeed and this produces great problems if it is going to be there over a period of many years and it takes a long time for it to get there.

MICHAEL BRUNSON

Lord Carrington, can you tell us what has happened to Mr. Hunt, the Governor? Do we know anything about his whereabouts?

LORD CARRINGTON

No, I do not know, no. The only thing we heard about that from one of the sources was that Government House was surrounded with armoured personnel carriers.

QUESTION

Was there any suggestion that he was taken captive?

LORD CARRINGTON

That is all I know, I am afraid.

QUESTION (inaudible)

LORD CARRINGTON

That was, I think, the research vessel who had picked up a Falkland Islands radio broadcast, Antarctic survey, but where it got the information from we do not know.

CHRIS HAMSON (DAILY MIRROR)

Mr. Nott mentioned that we have been trying to avoid precipitating any response from the Argentine, as we have already had, and yet he talks of a substantial naval force already at sea. Could he explain what appears to me to be an apparent contradiction in that also in terms of the MPs in the Commons today who believed that we have not done enough and that we have been rather lacking in any response. He seems to imply there has been a response but not to frighten the Argentinians into doing anything.

MR. NOTT

Well, there has been a substantial number of Royal Naval ships - I do not want to go into what kind of ships I am afraid for very obvious reasons - but they have been at sea for some time. As Lord Carrington has said, the Argentine Navy is of a significant size and we believe that we would need a substantial task group, naval task group, in order to meet the

kind of Argentinian force which is now present in those waters. It was simply not possible or sensible to assemble such a naval support task group of the kind that will clearly become evident very soon without this being well known throughout the world and during the last week or so we have been trying to solve this matter by peaceful and diplomatic means. That does not mean to say we did not feel it appropriate to have a number of ships at sea and they have been at sea for a period of time, but it would, as I say, be foolish of me to say where they are.

GEOFFREY PARKHOUSE

Have we asked the Americans for any military logistical help and if so, are they doing anything for us?

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MR. NOTT

No.

BRIDGET BLOOM

Can you tell us your best estimate of the Argentinian force that is down there in terms of ships and men?

MR. NOTT

I think if I can ask Admiral Whetstone to tell you what is in the Argentine force.

ADMIRAL WHETSTONE

We assess the Argentinian force in the general area of the Falklands to be one light fleet aircraft carrier, one

heavy cruiser, four destroyers - two of which are guided missile ships -, three guided missile corvettes and three troop-carrying ships. There are also believed to be three Argentinian submarines at sea.

DAVID MASON (ASSOCIATED PRESS)

Are we to understand that all of the Falkland Islands have been seized, including South Georgia, or just Port Stanley?

LORD CARRINGTON

Well I hope you know geography, because the Falkland Islands themselves are several islands. All we know is that Port Stanley, which is the town there, has been occupied, which I suppose amounts to the seizure of those Islands. South Georgia, as you know, is 800 miles away. We have not had any information about the seizure of South Georgia and, indeed, when we heard the radio from Grytviken it had not been seized.

MURRAY (LIVERPOOL DAILY POST)

Secretary of State, what do you expect the Security Council to decide and to do, especially in view of the fact that this is the first time since the founding of the U.N. that a member of the Security Council with veto rights has been attacked?

LORD CARRINGTON

What I hope they will do is to pass unanimously a resolution not only condemning what has happened, but requiring the end of hostilities and the withdrawal of the Argentinian force from the Falkland Islands.

QUESTION

What effect would that have?

LORD CARRINGTON

I think that one must expect that universal condemnation does have some effect, particularly if neighbours and friends condemn you.

HARRY GREENFIELD (SUNDAY TELEGRAPH)

Can I ask Mr. Nott whether the Royal Marines had a radio capable of working back to United Kingdom and whether he has tried to raise them on that and failed to do so?

MR. NOTT

The communications with Port Stanley have been until recent hours perfectly adequate. Up to the fairly recent past, we have been in very good communications with the Governor and with the Royal Marine detachment in Port Stanley.

QUESTION (MICHAEL)

Since the Argentines have now invaded the Falkland Islands, since they have also broken off all diplomatic relations with Britain, what do they now have to do to make you give the go for the task force?

MR. NOTT

Is that addressed to me?

QUESTION

Well, you told us that a substantial task force was in

readiness, but you had not given them the order to go. What will make you give them the order to go.

MR. NOTT

What I said was that it was only last night that we had clear and specific evidence that an invasion on the Falkland Islands was imminent. Before then, we were very conscious of the Argentine naval exercises and obviously of the dangers that that could conceivably represent, but we were in the process of diplomatic negotiations and, indeed, it was yesterday that we went to the Security Council, so it was last night when it became clear to us - and the evidence was there - that this assault was imminent, that we put the Royal Navy on - I must get the phraseology right - "immediate notice for operations" is the naval term and those preparations are now in hand. We will have to take a decision in the next couple of days or so about what we should do about the despatch of that force.

QUESTION

...Royal Navy..you say you put the Royal Navy on stand-by.

MR. NOTT

I think it is bound to become known in due course but I would rather if I may not list the force now. It will become known in due course and I think we probably can give more details in due course, but it would be a very substantial force.

TIM CROOK (BBC SCOTLAND)

My question is for Mr. Nott. Were the Marines on the island given prior orders to surrender if faced with overwhelming odds in order to avoid immediate bloodshed.

MR. NOTT

The British never give orders to anyone to surrender!

TIM CROOK

Is it assumed that they would fight? They would have fought

MR. NOTT

That I cannot answer, but I would assume that any member of the British Armed Services does not surrender. I would find that very difficult...

TIM CROOK

You presume then that they have been in combat?

MR. NOTT

I cannot confirm that. As we made clear, we have not been in communication with Port Stanley for the last number of hours. It would be foolish to speculate. I have not the information.

QUESTION (DAILY MIRROR)

Mr. Nott, presumably, because of the widespread preparations involving the Royal Navy, much of our NATO commitment must now be abandoned, at least temporarily?

MR. NOTT

Why abandoned?

QUESTION

Because we only have one navy.

MR. NOTT

I think it has always been recognized that we retain some out-of-area capability which is separate from our immediate Nato tasks. It has also been always recognized that in the face of an emergency we would be able, and our allies would be perfectly prepared to agree, that we should withdraw some of our NATO-dedicated forces to deal with the task in hand.

MR. AXLE (HUNGARIAN NEWS AGENCY)

Lord Carrington, could the British Government accept less than complete recovery of British sovereignty over those islands?

LORD CARRINGTON

I think I would like to stand on the remarks and the sentence used by the Lord Privy Seal in the House of Commons.

ELEANOR GOODMAN (FINANCIAL TIMES)

If you say that the task force would not have got there had it started when the salvage operators landed, does that mean it is going to take at least one or two weeks for it to get there now?

MR. NOTT

A task force comprised of the surface fleet would certainly take over two weeks to arrive in that area; it is over 8,000 miles.

MICHAEL WHITE (THE GUARDIAN)

Both Mr. Callaghan and Dr. David Owen have made it plain that they do regard the circumstances of the last confrontation in 1977/8 as being similar to the present ones and that all the signs were there to read for several weeks. Dr. Owen has described today as the most humiliating day for British diplomacy at arms since Suez. Do either of you two gentlemen intend to or have you already offered your resignations to the Prime Minister?

MR. NOTT

Well, you might expect Dr. David Owen to say that. I mean it is not a very great surprise.

LORD CARRINGTON

On the substance of the question, I think it is rather contradictory for Dr. Owen or Mr. Callaghan to say that the force they sent down to the Falkland Islands actually was responsible for deterring the Argentines and at the same time say that nobody knew it was there. If you are going to talk about that kind of thing, I would remind you that while the previous Government wasSouth Tewly (phon.) was occupied and the people are still there.

QUESTION

The Secretary for State said that up until a few hours ago they were in normal contact with the Governor. When it became apparent that an invasion force was on its way, did the Governor seek any advice or indeed, was he offered any advice as to what course of action he should take were that invasion

to actually materialize?

LORD CARRINGTON

He had his orders.

QUESTION

And what were those orders?

LORD CARRINGTON

I do not think it is for me to say what the Governor's orders were.

QUESTION

Can we take it, from what Lord Carrington has said and Mr. Nott has just said, that there is no question of resignations being offered at all? Or have been offered?

MR. NOTT

Why should anybody offer their resignation? I heard there was some rumour in the lobby, started by I have no idea who. I mean, the rumour is ridiculous and quite untrue.

QUESTION

Could I ask a question about the British Embassy in B.A. When will they be coming home? Do you expect to pull them out within the four days that you have given the Argentinians here and what about the 17,000 British subjects who will be left behind?

LORD CARRINGTON

The normal period of time in this sort of occasion is four days, but very often there is an 'interests section' left behind and we have still got to consider that aspect of it.

QUESTION

Lord Carrington, at the end of the day, don't you feel humiliated that all your resources in diplomatic and naval terms have proved so powerless to stop an invasion of British territory?

LORD CARRINGTON

I think what I feel is that if anybody who understood what the situation has been in the Falkland Islands over these last many years, anybody who actually has understood the position has known that there has been this risk and it has been the policy of successive British Governments by diplomacy to avert this happening, because there is no doubt, however easy some may think it is to guard against this kind of adventure, the geography and the distances are really very considerable and I think, when one reflects about it, one will perhaps see more clearly the problems which any Government faces in situations of this kind.

QUESTION

But is there not an element of humiliation for us a naval power?

LORD CARRINGTON

I have explained what has happened.

QUESTION (BRAZILIAN REPORTER)

Since Argentina is part of Latin America, is the British Government trying to get the help of other Latin American countries to solve the crisis?

LORD CARRINGTON

We are doing a great deal of diplomatic work to get a number of countries, Latin American countries amongst them, to put pressure upon the Argentine Government, and we have been very active diplomatically both yesterday and today.

TOM MACMULLEN (PRESS ASSOCIATION)

Lord Carrington, can we take it from your previous answer that you now regard the Argentinians as the sovereign power in the Falkland Islands?

LORD CARRINGTON

I do not see what made you think that.

TOM MACMULLEN

You said it is too far away to defend. Does that mean you now regard them as the sovereign power?

LORD CARRINGTON

I think that if you will look at all the answers that both Mr. Nott and I have given, you will see I said nothing of the kind, meant nothing of the kind and think nothing of the kind.

PATRICK KEATLEY

Just a brief one, Foreign Secretary. In view of the logistical problems, does that mean that we can do anything or

cannot do anything about the British people at Grytviken and the British detachment in South Georgia?

LORD CARINGTON

There are a very small number of British people in South Georgia and if, obviously, the Argentinians send a force there which greatly outnumbers them, there is nothing at the moment that we can do about it. I think that is right, isn't it?

NOEL LEWIS (BBC)

The House of Commons was told that the Cabinet was in touch with the Governor at half past ten this morning. At what time was communication broken? When was the invasion, and why was not another statement made to the House of Commons when it was obvious that an invasion had taken place?

MR. NOTT

Perhaps I can answer that. It certainly was not obvious at the time that we had an option to make a statement - that was in the period leading up to half past two. There were certainly reports circulating that an invasion had taken place, but it was not possible to confirm those in any substantive way and therefore the Leader of the House proposed that we would be prepared to recall the House tomorrow if confirmation arose subsequently, which is the position we are now in.

QUESTION

At what time did communication break with the Falklands?

MR. NOTT

We were in touch at half past ten. There was a certain amount of communication, but it was very difficult to hear, at round about one o'clock, but it became very difficult to get any proper communication from around about that time, and we still have not had confirmation from Port Stanley of what has happened. The reports are a series of reports from different sources.

QUESTION

You have no idea what time the invasion actually took place?

MR. NOTT

Not precisely, no.

LEONARD DOWNEY (WASHINGTON POST)

Have you asked for or do you expect any other extraordinary American diplomatic efforts such as President Reagan's phone call to the President of Argentina?

LORD CARRINGTON

We are considering asking a great number of people to help us. I have been in touch with Mr. Haig on a number of occasions, both last night and today, and the United States Government has been extremely helpful. They have just issued a statement about the situation which is roundly condemnatory and we are discussing with our friends and allies - not just the United States but our European friends and allies and others - how best we can use the diplomatic pressures to reverse what has happened.

DAVID SPANIARD (LBC)

Can you say what the main elements would be in this diplomatic negotiation which you have been trying to get going?

LORD CARRINGTON

No, I think I would rather not.

QUESTION

There was an option to use the Ascension Islands to get the RAF in there. They say that you could have used that. Why didn't you?

MR. NOTT

Well, the Ascension Island is over $3\frac{1}{2}$ thousand miles from Port Stanley. I think one has to appreciate the huge distances involved. I do not want to comment further than that on Ascension.

QUESTION

Can we say if in fact there were any other sanctions being contemplated other than the movement of military troops, economic in particular?

LORD CARRINGTON

We are considering all these things at the present time.

QUESTION

Since the Government's policy was not to precipitate a military response, and since the price of that policy now has been

that we have lost the Falkland Islands, at least for the moment, does this not mean the policy has failed and should you not possibly consider resigning?

MR. NOTT

Who are you addressing that to? Well, as the Foreign Secretary made absolutely clear, if we had despatched a very large naval force on the day that the 12 salvage men landed on South Georgia, that naval force would not be there. I think one has to appreciate the vast distances involved. The only way this kind of incident could have been guarded against would have been for successive Governments to have held down in the Falkland Islands a very large military force supported by a very substantial naval force over very many years, and no sane government in my view would contemplate doing any such thing.

QUESTION

Is my impression correct that what the two Secretaries of State have been saying today is that the British Government will make no response to this invasion of British territory until the Security Council has further discussed the matter?

LORD CARRINGTON

The Security Council are discussing the matter now.

HARRY GREENFIELD (SUNDAY TELEGRAPH)

You say that any action you might have taken would have been provocative or might have been taken to be provocative, but in fact, as has been pointed out, failure to do so has not stopped the Argentinians invading and I still fail to see why

since they used an exercise, we should not have used an exercise. The ships might not have been there, but they would have been at least that much nearer and it would not give the Argentinians two weeks in which to reinforce and dig in.

MR. NOTT

May I say that if 12 people with a valid salvage contract land on an island, is that in your judgment reason for despatching 8,000 miles a very large naval task force?

LORD CARRINGTON

Perhaps I might just say something else. I think you overlook one other factor and that is that Mr. Lewis had just been in New York discussing with Mr. Ross, his opposite number, the question of the resumption of talks with the Argentine Government about the problems of the Falkland Islands and they had had a talk and come to an agreement. Mr. Ross went back to the Argentine on a number of things that came up and they sent us a message which I had not had time to reply to, so there was every reason for us to suppose that the Argentines were interested in negotiation.

QUESTION

Would it be right to infer from Mr. Nott's remarks that in view of the distances involved, in the long term the Falkland Islands cannot be defended militarily?

MR. NOTT

Cannot be defended militarily? I would not like you to draw any conclusion ~~x~~ that because the Falklands Islands is 8,000 miles away, that we do not have the military capability to deal with a problem of this kind.

QUESTION

Within the current defence budget and on a sustained basis?

MR. NOTT

Within the defence budget and on a sustained basis.
