

SECRET

THE SECRETARY OF STATE
WASHINGTON.

April 2, 1982

155914

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Alexander M. Haig, Jr. 

1. Argentine Seizure of the Falkland Islands. The Argentine seizure of the Falkland Islands early this morning was swift and apparently relatively bloodless. Argentines report one man killed; there are no reports as yet of British casualties. The British are searching urgently for a diplomatic solution while demanding cessation of hostilities and the withdrawal of all Argentine forces. The Argentines called for a delay in today's Security Council deliberations. We will support the British resolution when it comes to a vote, which may be later this evening or tomorrow. The British are sending a large task force toward the Falklands, but its size is still undetermined. In any event, it would take about two weeks to arrive. I met this morning with UK Ambassador Henderson, who requested that we recall our Ambassador in Buenos Aires and suspend any contemplated arms sales to Argentina. He raised the possibility of our taking the dispute before the OAS. We are currently reviewing how to reply to the British request and what additional steps we might take. We must proceed cautiously and objectively on this question - not endorsing Argentine use of force while not unnecessarily jeopardizing our relations with Argentina. (S)

2. UN Global Negotiations. On Wednesday, the developing countries (Group of 77) presented a new draft resolution on global negotiations (GNA). The draft is a step backwards from the work of UNGA President Kittani which we had found helpful and to which we presented amendments in December. The draft ignores the understandings which you presented at Cancun and the US amendments which the NSC approved in December. The text appears to be an initiative of Mexico and India. They may have been trying to be helpful, but Algeria and some other developing countries are counting on us to reject the text and take the blame for ending GNs. The Canadians and Australians can accept the text. The UK and Belgium have reservations. The Germans and Japanese are ambivalent but do not wish to isolate us. The French are pushing the other Europeans very hard to accept the text. We intend to contact the Versailles summit countries to ensure that this does not become a major issue for the summit. Our objective is to reestablish the Cancun understandings and to expose the cynicism of some G-77 members. (S)

3. Nicaragua in the Security Council: The Vote. Only a US veto prevented passage tonight of a Nicaraguan draft resolution that was relatively mild but did not meet our fundamental requirement--that it refer the issue to the OAS for primary consideration. The vote was 12 in favor, one opposed (our veto) and two abstentions (UK and Zaire). Our representative criticized the resolution as an unbalanced and incorrect characterization of the problem. It became clear today that neither of the resolution's sponsors wanted to discuss changes in the draft resolution which would have made it acceptable to us. (U)

RDS - 1 4/2/02 (HAIG, Alexander M., Jr.)

SECRET

DECLASSIFIED

BY RW
M453/3 #155914
9/2/16

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

18

RW
3/18/82

SECRET ATTACHMENT

April 3, 1982

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: WILLIAM P. CLARK

SUBJECT: Secretary Haig's Evening Report

Attached is Al Haig's evening report for Friday, April 2, 1982.

cc: The Vice President
Ed Meese
Jim Baker
Mike Deaver