

PRESS OFFICE BULLETIN

date: 5.4.82

NO: 79

PRIME MINISTER'S MEETING WITH GOVERNOR AND MARINES

The PM saw the Governor of the Falkland Islands, Mr Rex Hunt, together with Major Noot~~t~~ and Major Norman at 1230 for about 30 minutes. A Private Secretary (John Coles) was the only other person present. Biographical details of the visitors are attached.

The PM wanted to meet the Governor and the Majors personally to thank them for the bravery and skill they had shown and to learn at first hand from them what had happened. They gave an account of the events immediately preceding the invasion and an account of the fighting which had taken place at Port Stanley.

The Governor and ~~the~~ Majors will be holding a press conference at the FCO at 3.30pm. All enquiries to the FCO.

We are not prepared to go into any details of what they had to say about the Argentinian invasion; this we regard as operational information of relevance to any future military deployments by us.

Major Gareth (Garry) Noott

Born 26 October 1944; joined Royal Marines 27 January 1964; various postings include Officer Commanding Royal Marines on HMS Endurance; married with three daughters; lives in Topsham, Nr. Exeter.

Major Mike Norman

Born 7 October 1943; joined Royal Marines in the ranks 1962; commissioned 1964; various postings also include Officer Commanding Royal Marines on HMS Endurance; married, no children; lives in Poole.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTES ON THE GOVERNOR OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS

Mr. Rex Hunt

55 year-old Mr. Hunt has been Governor in Port Stanley since February 1979, where he has been accompanied by his wife Mavis. His teenage son and daughter have been at boarding schools in Britain visiting the Falklands for school holidays.

Following service with the RAF from 1944-48, Mr. Hunt spent the early years of his overseas career in the colonial service, finishing in Uganda in 1963. Subsequently he has spent the greater part of his time in South East Asia on diplomatic postings to Sarawak, Sabah, Brunei, Indonesia, Vietnam (when he left Saigon when it fell in 1975) and Malaysia.

In the Falkland Islands he commanded the respect of the Islanders for his open approach to the government of the Colony