

TRANSCRIPT OF PRESS CONFERENCE
HELD AT FCO ON MONDAY 5 APRIL 1982
AT 1530 FOR THE GOVERNOR OF THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS AND MARINE OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN: GOOD AFTERNOON, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN. IT IS MY PLEASURE THIS AFTERNOON TO INTRODUCE HIS EXCELLENCY MR. REX HUNT, GOVERNOR OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS, ON MY RIGHT, MAJOR RUTE ON HIS RIGHT, WHO WAS UNTIL FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE INVASION THE ... WHO WAS THE COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL MARINE DETACHMENT ~~PRESENT UP UNTIL~~ PRESENT UP UNTIL FOUR DAYS BEFORE THE INVASION AND STILL PRESENT AT THE TIME OF THE INVASION, AND MAJOR NORMAN ON MY LEFT, COMMANDER OF THE ROYAL MARINE DETACHMENT WHICH ARRIVED A FEW DAYS BEFORE THE INVASION TOOK PLACE.

THIS IS A DAY OF COURSE OF A CERTAIN POLITICAL ... CERTAIN POLITICAL EVENTS IN THIS COUNTRY, THIS PRESS CONFERENCE IS NOT ABOUT THAT SUBJECT. I'M SURE YOU WILL UNDERSTAND THAT IT IS NOT FOR THE GOVERNOR OR FOR THE MARINE COMMANDERS TO DISCUSS POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN BRITAIN, THAT IS FOR MINISTERS, AND YOU HAVE HAD AMPLE OPPORTUNITY OVER THE LAST FEW DAYS TO HEAR AND TALK TO MINISTERS ABOUT IT AND NO DOUBT THERE WILL BE OTHER OCCASIONS IN THE FUTURE. INSTEAD THE PURPOSE OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE IS TO ENABLE THE GOVERNOR AND THE MARINE COMMANDERS TO GIVE THEIR PERSONAL ACCOUNTS OF THE UNPROVOKED INVASION OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS LAST FRIDAY. THEY WILL ALSO BE HAPPY, IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS, TO GIVE SOME FLAVOUR OF LIFE IN THE ISLANDS. IT MIGHT PERHAPS BE HELPFUL TO YOU IF FIRST I ASK GOVERNOR HUNT TO GIVE HIS OWN ACCOUNT OF THE EVENTS OF THAT DAY AND THEN WE'LL TAKE IT FROM THERE. GOVERNOR HUNT.

MR. REX HUNT: THANK YOU. LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, I HOPE YOU DON'T MIND IF WHEN I MENTION TIMES, I GIVE LOCAL STANLEY TIMES, STANLEY

● THREE HOURS BEHIND GMT. THE FIRST FIRM EVIDENCE WE HAD OF AN ARGENTINE NAVAL TASKFORCE APPROACHING THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND POSSIBLY BEING ABLE TO GATHER OFF CAPE PEMBROKE - DO WE HAVE A MAP? - AH YES, - OFF CAPE PEMBROKE WHICH IS TO THE RIGHT OF STANLEY, WAS IN THE AFTERNOON OF THE 1ST AND I IMMEDIATELY CALLED MAJORS NUTE AND NORMAN. SHOWED THEM THE SIGNAL AND THEY THEN STARTED ORGANISING THE DEPLOYMENT OF THEIR MARINES. THE INSTRUCTIONS IN THE TELEGRAM WERE THAT I WAS TO DEPLOY AND MAKE MY DISPOSITIONS ACCORDINGLY. WE HAD GOT A PRE-ARRANGED PLAN, IT WENT - WE WERE A BIT WRONG-FOOTED AS IT TURNED OUT, I'LL COME TO THAT LATER - BUT THE MAIN PLAN WAS THAT WE EXPECTED THE LANDINGS TO COME FROM A BEACH, STEEPLY SHELVED BEACH WHICH WOULD BE ALL RIGHT FOR INFANTRY LANDING CRAFT, NEAR THE AIRFIELD, THAT THEY WOULD COME ASHORE THERE, COME ACROSS THE AIRFIELD AND THEN TAKE THE ROAD TO STANLEY AND WE HAD OUR SECTIONS DEPLOYED SO THAT WE COULD CONTAIN THEM AT FIRST AT THE BEACH AND THEN AROUND THE AIRFIELD AND THEN AT VARIOUS STRATEGIC POINTS ON THE ROAD BACK TO STANLEY. WHEN THEY GOT TO THE EAST OF STANLEY THE MARINES WERE TO BREAK OFF ENGAGEMENT TO SAVE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES AND COME THROUGH THE TOWN AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE WHICH IS ON THE WEST SIDE OF THE TOWN AND THERE WOULD MAKE OUR LAST STAND.

WELL, WE SET ABOUT DOING THAT IMMEDIATELY WHILST THE MAJORS WENT OFF, I CALLED IN THE GOVERNMENT HEADS OF DEPARTMENT AND TOLD THEM THAT THIS EMERGENCY WAS LIKELY TO BE UPON US BY DAWN THE NEXT DAY AND THEY WENT OFF TO DO THEIR ... UNDERTAKE THEIR EMERGENCY PROCEDURES. I CALLED IN PATRICK WATTS, OUR BROADCASTING

OFFICER AND HE RIGGED UP A MICROPHONE AND AN AMPLIFIER IN MY OPERATIONS ROOM IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE SO THAT I WAS LINKED TO THE LOCAL RADIO STATION WHICH HE AGREED WOULD BE MANNED ALL NIGHT AND CABLE AND WIRELESS ALSO WAS TO BE ON DUTY ALL NIGHT - NORMALLY CABLE AND WIRELESS IN STANLEY ARE DAYLIGHT ONLY. I ORDERED THE LIGHTHOUSE NOT TO BE LIT THAT NIGHT AND THE BOR BEACON TO BE RENDERED INOPERABLE, THE AIRFIELD TO BE STRIPPED, TO BE

OBSTRUCTED, WE PUT WHATEVER WE COULD FIND, FIRE TENDERS, OLD BOWSERRS, EVERYTHING THAT WE COULD FIND ON THE RUNWAY AND BEFORE THAT WE GOT THE ISLANDER, ONE OF OUR FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT AIR SERVICE AIRCRAFT OUT OF THE AIRFIELD LANDED AT THE RACE COURSE SO THAT NEXT MORNING AT FIRST LIGHT WE COULD DO A RECCE IF THE SHIPS HAD NOT APPEARED BY THEN.

I THEN WENT ON THE AIR AT ABOUT 8.15 THE LOCAL TIME THAT EVENING AND TOLD THE PEOPLE THAT AN EMERGENCY WAS LIKELY, PERHAPS BEFORE DAWN THE NEXT DAY, I EXPLAINED THAT WE HAD ASKED FOR AN EMERGENCY SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND THAT IT WAS POSSIBLE THAT THE INVASION MIGHT STILL BE AVERTED, AND WE WOULD HAVE TO AWAIT THE OUTCOME OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING. I THEN CALLED IN THE FOUR BRITISH JOURNALISTS WHO WERE THERE AND BRIEFED THEM AND I AUTHORISED THE CABLE AND WIRELESS TO LET THEM SEND OFF THEIR COPY. WE THEN STARTED MAKING G.H. GOVERNMENT HOUSE, INTO GHG, AND WE SENT THE ... ALL THE STAFF AWAY EXCEPT FOR DON, MY DRIVER, HE TOOK MY SHOTGUN, AS SOON AS THE WOMEN HAD GONE AND SAID THAT HE WOULD BLAST ANY 'ARGIE' WHO TRIED TO TAKE THE FLAG DOWN. MY WIFE AND SON WENT OFF TO THE CHIEF SECRETARY'S AND WE STARTED GETTING GOVERNMENT HOUSE SORTED OUT.

WE DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING MORE UNTIL I WENT ON THE AIR AGAIN AT 12.30 AND SAID THAT ... GAVE THE PEOPLE THE OUTCOME OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING AND SAID WE MUST NOW SEE WHAT THE .. WHAT THE ARGENTINES WERE GOING TO DO, THEY HAD NOT RESPONDED. ABOUT 3.30 THAT MORNING, JUST BEFORE 3.30 WE HEARD THE .. WE GOT THE TELEGRAM IN SAYING THAT PRESIDENT REAGAN'S LAST MINUTE APPEAL TO GALTIERI HAD BEEN REBUFFED, AND SO I THOUGHT THAT THERE WAS NO

POINT IN RISKING A SABOTAGE GANG IN OUR MIDST, WE HAD ABOUT 28
27/28 ARGENTINES IN THE TOWN AND I GAVE ORDERS FOR THEM TO BE
ROUNDED UP AND PUT IN THE TOWN HALL. WE KNEW THAT A BUNCH OF THEM
WHO'D JUST COME IN, 17 THE WEEK BEFORE, WELL NOT KNEW, I WAS VERY
SUSPICIOUS THAT THEY WERE PART OF THE OPERATION AND COULD WELL
BE A SNATCH GANG, SO WE BUNDLED THEM OFF AND THEN AT 4.30 IN THE
MORNING I WENT ON THE RADIO AGAIN AND DECLARED A STATE OF
EMERGENCY AND I SAID THAT WE MIGHT BE SEEING AN INVASION BY DAWN.
WELL, JUST AFTER THAT MIKE, I THINK IT WAS, MAJOR NORMAN, HEARD ...
HE WAS UP IN THE FIELD TOWARDS THE COAST AND HE THOUGHT HE HEARD
SOME HELICOPTERS. AT ABOUT 5 O'CLOCK THE LIGHTHOUSE REPORTED SOME
MOVEMENT OF SHIPS, THE SECTION WE HAD ON THE BEACH ALSO REPORTED
IT AND THE FOREST WHICH WAS THE GOVERNMENT SHIP ON CHARTER TO THE
ROYAL MARINES, SHE WAS OUT IN PORT WILLIAM WITH HER RADAR, HE
REPORTED SOME PRETTY BIG RADAR BLIPS AND WAS ORDERED TO RETURN TO
HARBOUR. SORRY - WERE YOU ASKING A QUESTION? NO? SORRY. AT....
IT WAS THEN THAT I TRIED TO SEND A SIGNAL TO HOME, TO .. BACK HERE,
TO SAY THAT THE -.. WE'D SIGHTED THE ENEMY SHIPS AND THE LANDINGS
WERE ABOUT TO START BUT UNFORTUNATELY CABLE AND WIRELESS WERE
HAVING TROUBLE WITH THEIR CIRCUITS, SO THEY TRIED ANOTHER CIRCUIT TO
ROBBY AND COULDN'T THAT, SO THEY SAID SHOULD THEY TRY PORTISHEAD
AND I SAID, WELL, TRY ANYWHERE BUT GET A MESSAGE THROUGH TO FCO.
AS YOU ALL KNOW UNFORTUNATELY THAT NEVER GOT THROUGH AND WE DIDN'T
GET ANYTHING MORE OUT FROM CABLE AND WIRELESS. AT ABOUT FIVE TO
SIX WE HEARD BANGS AND EXPLOSIONS COMING FROM MOODY BROOK, NOW

THAT WAS THE MARINE BARRACKS, THE MARINES, ALL OF THEM, HAVE
VACATED THE BARRACKS BEFORE MIDNIGHT, THERE WAS NOBODY THERE AT
ALL, WE'D TAKEN THE RISK THAT THEY WOULD COME IN FROM THE BEACH
AND WE HAD ALL THE SECTIONS DEPLOYED OUT THAT WAY, WE DIDN'T HAVE
ANYTHING BACK ON THE LANDWARD SIDE, WE JUST HAD THE ADMINISTRATIVE
HEADQUARTERS WITH ME IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE. THEY WERE THE CLERKS
AND THE BOOKS AND BOTTLEWASHER, WHAT HAVE YOU. THESE BANGS CAUGHT
US BY SURPRISE, IT INDICATED THAT SOMEHOW SOME OF THE ARGIES HAD
GOT IN AND COME AROUND THE BACK OF STANLEY AND WERE ATTACKING THE
MOODY BROOK, SO IMMEDIATELY MAJOR NORMAN CALLED BACK TWO OF THE
SECTIONS THAT WERE DEPLOYED OUT ON THE ROAD TO THE AIRPORT AND THEY..
WELL, ONE OF THEM GOT BACK BEFORE MUCH TROUBLE STARTED AT
GOVERNMENT HOUSE, THE OTHER ONES WORKED THEIR WAY THROUGH UNDER FIRE.
ABOUT ... JUST AFTER THAT, SIX O'CLOCK, JUST AFTER SIX, THE
GOVERNMENT HOUSE CAME UNDER FIRE FROM QUITE CLOSE RANGE, AND A SPOTTE
WE HAD UP ON THE HILL BEHIND REPORTED QUITE LARGE MOVEMENTS OF
TROOPS, AND THIS FAST BECAME QUITE A FIRE FIGHT, WE ALL FINISHED
UP ON THE FLOOR, IT WENT ON FOR ABOUT HALF AN HOUR I SHOULD THINK
AND THEY GOT PRETTY CLOSE, THEY GOT WITHIN TWENTY YARDS OF GOVERNI-
MENT HOUSE BEFORE THE MARINES REPULSED THEM AND THIS ABOUT 6.30,
DAWN WAS JUST BREAKING THEN AND AS THEY WITHDREW THEY LEFT THREE
WOUNDED, SERIOUSLY WOUNDED JUST OVER THE WALL, JUST TWENTY YARDS
AWAY. MIKE, YOU SAW THEM, TWENTY YARDS - ?

MAJOR NORMAN: PH, TEN.

MR. HUNT: THEY WERE VERY CLOSE ANYWAY, WE COULD HEAR THEM GROANING
AND WHAT HAVE YOU. AND THEN THINGS QUIETENED DOWN FOR A BIT, WE
HAD SPORADIC FIRE BUT NOTHING MUCH HAPPENING BUT WE BEGAN TO GET
REPORTS FROM THE SECTIONS OUT ON THE AIRPORT ROAD OF ARMoured
PERSONNEL CARRIERS COMING IN FROM THE BEACH, FROM YORK BAY, IF ANY
OF YOU KNOW THE FALKLANDS - THIS MAP ISN'T A BIG ENOUGH SCALE
I'M AFRAID TO SHOW YOU PROPERLY WHERE THE ACTION HAPPENED. THESE
A.P.C.S WERE TRACK VEHICLES, ARMoured AND THEY'D GOT 30
MILLIMETRE CANNONS AND THEY WERE FOLLOWED BY DUKW ON
WHEELS BUT THEY CAME CHARGING IN, NOT ON THE BEACH WE THOUGHT
AND WERE EXPECTING FOR INFANTRY, THEY CAME IN ON A SHALLOWER
BEACH AND CAME STRAIGHT UP AND HEADED - 15 OF THEM ALTOGETHER -
STARTED HEADING ALONG THE ROAD TOWARDS STANLEY TOWN. WE HAD SECTIONS
DEPLOYED ALONG THERE STILL AND ONE SECTION HAD A GO AT THEM WITH
64 MILLIMETRE AND 66 - IS THAT RIGHT? - 66 MILLIMETRE
ROCKETS AND THEY KNOCKED ONE OUT, THEY STOPPED ONE, GOT A ROCKET
ON ... IN THE TRACK, STOPPED IT AND GOT ANOTHER ROCKET INTO THE

PASSENGER COMPARTMENT AND NOBODY GOT OUT -.. THE OTHERS WERE
CARRYING ABOUT TEN, NOBODY GOT OUT OF THAT, THE SECTION WAS
WAITING TO PICK THEM OFF SO WE CAN ... WELL, WE HOPE THAT WE SORTED
THEM OUT IN THERE. THAT PARTICULAR SECTION BY THEN HAD RUN OUT
OF ANTI-TANK AMMUNITION, ROCKETS, AND SO THEY WITHDREW BACK INTO
STANLEY TO GET BACK TO GOVERNMENT HOUSE. WE HEARD THIS ON THE RADIO,
WE HEARD THAT THE ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIERS HAD GOT BACK... HAD
GOT INTO STANLEY, THE EAST OF STANLEY, AND WERE COMING THROUGH THE
ROADS ..., MAIN ROADS. WE COULDN'T MOVE OUTSIDE GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
MIKE TRIED TO EXTEND OUR PERIMETER BUT EVERY TIME WE MOVED WE WERE
SHOT AT AND THEY HAD A COMMANDING POSITION OVER GOVERNMENT HOUSE,
THE HILLSIDE BEHIND WENT UP AND THERE WERE TREES ABOVE ... THE
ONLY TREES IN THE FALKLANDS ARE BEHIND GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND IT MADE
IT VERY EASY FOR THEM TO GET CLOSE WITHOUT BEING OBSERVED AND THEY
HAD PLENTY OF COVER AND WE WERE LOOKING UP AT THEM AND THEY WERE
LOOKING DOWN ON US, SO THINGS WERE PRETTY FRAUGHT, WE COULDN'T
MOVE, WE ESTIMATED IN THE DAYLIGHT THERE MUST HAVE BEEN ABOUT 120
OF THEM THERE AND THERE WERE MORE COMING FROM MOODY BROOK, COMING
UP TO JOIN THEM FROM THE WEST AND THESE A.P.C.S WERE COMING
THROUGH THE TOWN FROM THE EAST, SO WE HAD A LITTLE CONFLAB AND
I DECIDED IT WAS TIME WE TALKED, SO I RANG UP - OUR PHONE WAS
STILL WORKING, AT THE TELEPHONE EXCHANGE THE GIRLS ON THE TELEPHONE
EXCHANGE, ISLANDERS, HAD IT ON ALL NIGHT WITHOUT ANY PROBLEM AND
CARRIED ON LONG INTO THE DAY - I GOT ON THE PHONE TO D.C.COMMODORE
GILOBERT+ WHO HAD BEEN THE SENIOR ARGENTINE AIR FORCE OFFICER IN
STANLEY FOR THE TWO YEARS THAT I'D BEEN THERE ... AND HE WAS JUST
BACK THE WEEK BEFORE, AS HE SAID, TO INVESTIGATE LARDE+ SECURITY
AFTER WE'D HAD ONE OR TWO SILLY INCIDENTS AT THE LARDE OFFICE. I
SUSPECTED THAT, I THOUGHT HE WAS IN CHARGE OF THE SABOTAGE GANG.
I RANG HIM UP IN THE LARDE HOUSE AND I SAID - HECTOR, I THINK YOU
SHOULD GO OUT AND GET THE COMMANDER TO COME AND TALK TO ME AND HE
SAID HE WASN'T GOING TO GO OUT, HE DIDN'T KNOW A THING ABOUT IT,
AND I THINK HE WAS GENUINE, HE WAS VERY UPSET, HE COULD HARDLY
SPEAK AND HE ASKED ME TO BELIEVE THAT HE DID NOT KNOW THAT THE
NAVY AND THE ARMY WERE COMING, HE'D GONE IN THERE IN ALL INNOCENCE
TO LOOK AFTER THE LARDE SECURITY. HE DIDN'T KNOW WHO THE COMMANDER
WAS AND HE DIDN'T KNOW TO WHOM HE SHOULD SPEAK. SO I SAID - WELL,
GET AN ARGENTINE FLAG AND GO AND WAVE IT AND THEY WON'T SHOOT AT
YOU... WE WON'T SHOOT AT YOU - AND HE SAID HE HADN'T GOT AN
ARGENTINE FLAG IN HIS HOUSE, IT WAS IN THE OFFICE, AND HE CERTAINLY

WANTED TO GO TO GOVERNMENT TO THE OFFICE TO GET IT. SO I SAID -
WELL, WHY NOT FLY A WHITE FLAG AND COME ALONG AND TALK TO ME. HE
SWALLOWED A BIT BUT VERY BRAVELY, I THOUGHT, HE GREED, HE SAID HE
COULD DO THAT, HE SAID - GIVE ME TEN MINUTES AND I'LL BE ALONG,
AND IN TEN MINUTES TIME WE TOLD OUR CHAPS TO STOP FIRING, WE
YELLED AT THE ARGIES, THEY'D BEEN YELLING AT US TO COME OUT AND
SURRENDER, BUT WE YELLED AT THEM AND SAID - DON'T SHOOT, WE'VE GOT
ONE OF YOUR CHAPS COMING ALONG WITH A WHITE FLAG - AND HE CAME
ALONG, UP THE DRIVE AND WAS SHOT AT JUST AS HE GOT TO GOVERNMENT
HOUSE BY HIS OWN PEOPLE AND FINISHED UP IN A HEAP ON THE FLOOR
WITH MIKE HERE BUT FORTUNATELY, NO ... HE WASN'T HIT BUT HE WAS
VERY WHITE AND ASHEN AND SHAKY WHEN HE CAME IN AND I SAID
I THOUGHT ... HE DIDN'T KNOW ANYBODY AROUND WHO WAS ... ANY OF THE
PEOPLE SURROUNDING US AT THAT TIME AND I SAID - WELL, I THINK THE
COMMANDER OF THE A.P.CS MUST BE THE MAN TO TALK TO, SO WHAT ABOUT
WALKING DOWN AND MEETING THE A.P.CS? WE'D JUST HAD A PHONE
CALL FROM OUR POLICE STATION TO SAY THAT THEY WERE FOUR MINUTES
AWAY FROM THEM AND THEY WERE JUST ABOUT FIVE MINUTES AWAY FROM US
COMING DOWN THE MAIN ROAD, SO HE DIDN'T WANT TO GO OUT AGAIN BY
HIMSELF SO I GOT DICK BAKER, OUR CHIEF SECRETARY THERE, AN
ENGLISHMAN, HE'S AN EX-PATRIOT OSAS+ OFFICER WORKING FOR THE
FALKLAND ISLANDS GOVERNMENT AND AGAIN I THINK HE WAS EXTREMELY
BRAVE, HE AGREED TO GO WITH HECTOR GILOBERT. WE GOT A BIT OF THE
WHITE CURTAIN THAT HAD BEEN SHOT THROUGH FROM MY WINDOW, TIED IT ON
TOP OF MY UMBRELLA AND OFF THEY WENT, UNDER COVER FROM OUR PEOPLE,
MIKE HAD A COUPLE OF CHAPS COVERING THEM ON THE WAY DOWN AND THEY
WALKED ALONG TO THE TOWN HALL, STILL HADN'T FOUND A.P.CS, THEY HAD
STOPPED BEHIND FURTHER BACK, RANG ME FROM THE TOWN HALL AND I SAID
- WELL, WAIT OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL WITH THE FLAGS, I'LL TRY
AND GET THE COMMANDER ON THE RADIO AND I GOT HOLD OF PATRICK WATTS
WHO WAS GIVING RADIO COMMENTARY ALL THIS TIME, HE WAS SUPERB AND I
SAID TRY AND GET THE FREQUENCY OF THE ARGENTINES AND SAY THAT WE'VE
GOT THE CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES - THIS WAS THE CHIEF
SECRETARY AND THE LARGE OFFICER - OUTSIDE THE TOWN HALL WAITING TO
TALK TO THE COMMANDER. AND WE HAD A FEW .. ABOUT AN ANXIOUS
QUARTER OF AN HOUR AND NOTHING HAPPENED AND THEN ALONG CAME THREE
ARGENTINES WITH AN A.P. C. RIGHT BEHIND THEM UP TO OUR TWO CHAPS
WITH THE WHITE FLAGS - WELL, NOT OUR TWO, HECTOR BILEEE GILOBERT
THE ARGENTINE AND THE BRITISH CHAP WITH THE WHITE FLAGS AND IT
TURNED OUT THAT THIS CHAP WAS THE ADMIRAL IN CHARGE OF THE ASSAULT
GROUP, ADMIRAL - I THOUGHT HE SAID 'BOOZIE' BUT WHAT WAS IT
IT WAS LUESSER BUESSER I THINK .. I NEVER GOT HIS NAME
PROPERLY BUT HE WALKED UP WITH HIS TWO AIDES, - LEFT THE A.P.C

THERE, OUT - WELL, NEAR THE TOWN HALL, IT WASN'T OUT OF RANGE BUT IT WAS QUITE A LONG WAY OFF THE GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND IN CAME THE ADMIRAL WITH OUR TWO CHAPS AND THE ... WITH THE TWO INTERMEDIARIES AND HIS TWO AIDES. HE CAME INTO MY OPS ROOM WHICH WAS A BIT OF A MESS BY THEN AND HE WAS VERY COURTEOUS AND POLITE, PUNCTILIOUS IN FACT, HE TRIED TO SHAKE ME BY THE HAND BUT I SAID I WOULD NOT SHAKE HANDS WITH SOMEBODY WHO WAS INVADING BRITISH TERRITORY. HE SAID THAT IT WAS NOT BRITISH TERRITORY, THAT HE HAD COME TO RECLAIM FOR THE FALKLAND ... FOR ARGENTINA WHAT WAS RIGHTFULLY THEIRS AND WHICH WE ... TERRITORY WHICH WE HAD TAKEN AWAY FROM THEM IN 1833, AND HE SAID THAT THEY BROUGHT AN OVERWHELMINGLY SUPERIOR FORCE TO AVOID CASUALTIES, HE SAID THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO INFLICT ANY CASUALTIES ON THE CIVILIANS OR ON THE MILITARY. HE PRAISED THE MARINES FOR THEIR BRAVERY AND SKILL AND HE SAID THAT HE APPEALED TO ME TO SAVE NEEDLESS LOSS OF LIFE AND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY IN BOTH THE CIVILIAN PART OF THE TOWN AND IN AND AROUND G.H. AND WITH THE MARINES AND I SAID I HAD NO ALTERNATIVE BUT TO AGREE AND I THEN ORDERED, THIS WAS ABOUT NINE O'CLOCK - WAS IT NINE? - ABOUT NINE O'CLOCK, 9.15.- PARDON?

MAJOR NORMAN: ABOUT 9.25.

MR. HUNT: 9.25 I GAVE ORDERS TO MAJOR NORMAN AND MAJOR NOOT TO LAY DOWN ARMS. I SHOULD SAY JUST BEFORE THAT I SAID - WELL, YOU'D BETTER BE QUICK AND DO SOMETHING IF .. TO GET A CEASEFIRE, IF NOT A PROPER TRUCE SO THAT WE COULD GET THOSE BADLY WOUNDED WHO WERE STILL LYING OUTSIDE NEAR US AND ALSO BY THAT TIME WE HAD THREE PRISONERS OF WAR, GARY, IN BETWEEN TIMEZ, DURING A LULL, WHIPPED OUT TO OUR MAIDS' QUARTERS AND THERE HE FOUND THREE OF THEM HIDING UP IN THE MAIDS' QUARTERS, AND THEY PROMPTLY SURRENDERED AND HE BROUGHT THEM BACK, SO WE HANDED BACK OUR THREE PRISONERS OF WAR AND HELPED THEM TO GET THE WOUNDED OFF TO OUR HOSPITAL. THE ADMIRAL WAS VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT AND HE CALLED A HALT TO HIS OWN PEOPLE FIRING AND THEN I THINK HE TALK YOU, DIDN'T HE, GARY, OFF IN THE LANDROVER TO ROUND UP EVERYBODY ELSE? HE THEN SAID THAT HE WAS NOT THE GOVERNOR, THAT THE GOVERNOR, THE ARGENTINE GOVERNOR, WAS STILL COMING, HE WAS AN ARMY GENERAL AND HE WOULD BE COMING IN AN

HOURS TIME, SO I SAT IN MY OPS ROOM IN GOVERNMENT HOUSE WAITING AND ABOUT 10.15 A LYNX HELICOPTER CAME ALONG TO THE FOOTBALL FIELD AND I SAW SOME VIP JUMP OUT AND EMBRACE EVERYBODY, GREAT CHEERING AND WHAT HAVE YOU THERE AND INSTEAD OF COMING INTO GOVERNMENT HOUSE, AS I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO DO, HE WENT OFF WITH HIS AIDES OFF TO THE TOWN HALL IN THE OTHER DIRECTION. I THEN GOT A MESSAGE SAYING THAT HE WANTED TO SEE ME AT THE TOWN HALL, SO I SENT A MESSAGE BACK SAYING I'D SEE HIM AT GOVERNMENT HOUSE AND THIS WENT ON AND ON FOR A COUPLE OF HOURS OR SO AND IN THE END ABOUT TWELVE O'CLOCK, HECTOR GILOBERT, THIS VICE COMMODORE, CAME ALONG IN HIS CIVILIAN CAR AND SAID - LOOK, IF YOU DON'T COME NOW I'M AFRAID THEY'RE GOING TO SEND SOMEBODY IN TO GET YOU AND MARCH YOU THERE, AND SO I WENT WITH HECTOR GILOBERT IN HIS CAR AND WE WENT UP TO THE TOWN HALL, I WAS FACED THERE BY A MUCH MORE FORMAL CEREMONY, THE GENERAL WAS STANDING THERE SURROUNDED BY ALL HIS AIDES AND CAMERAS AND THINGS AND AGAIN HE CAME ALONG AND HELD HIS HAND OUT TO ME AND I REFUSED TO TAKE IT. I SAID - I DONNOT SHAKE HANDS WITH AN INVADER OF BRITISH TERRITORY AND HE LOOKED VERY ANGRY, HIS CHEEKS WERE TWITCHING LIKE MAD AND HE ... I COULD SEE HE WAS HOLDING HIMSELF IN WITH GREAT RESTRAINT AND HE WAS VERY PROPER AND HE SAID - I THINK IT'S VERY UNGENTLEMANLY NOT TO SHAKE HANDS, AND I SAID - I THINK IT'S VERY UNCIVILISED FOR YOU TO INVADE OUR COUNTRY. HE THEN WENT INTO A SPIEL ABOUT IT NOT BEING OUR COUNTRY AND BEING RIGHTFULLY THEIRS, I SAID - WELL, WE COULD ARGUE ABOUT THE SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS FOR ... OUR RESPECTIVE SOVEREIGNTY CLAIMS FOR THREE HOURS BUT WHAT YOU CANNOT DENY IS THAT THE ARGENTINEE ARGENTINE AND BRITISH GOVERNMENTS AGREED IN THE UNITED NATIONS TO SETTLE THE DISPUTE BY PEACEFUL MEANS AND THAT HE HAD OCCUPIED THE ISLANDS BY FORCE AGAINST THE WISHES OF THE ISLANDERS, THAT HE WAS THERE ILLEGALLY AND I INSTRUCTED HIM TO LEAVE FORTHWITH AND TAKE HIS TROOPS WITH HIM. WHEREUPON HE TURNED HIS BACK ON ME FOR A WHILE AND THEN CAME BACK AND ORDERED ME ... SAID... NOT ORDDREEEE ORDERED, SAID THAT I AND ALL MY OFFICIALS WOULD BE REMOVED BY FOUR O'CLOCK THAT AFTERNOON AND THE MARTINES. I SAID WE COULDN'T

LEAVE THAT SOON, WE HADN'T PACKED, WE HADN'T HAD TIME TO PACK
WE DIDN'T KNOW HE WAS COMING AND HE HURRIED AND HAHED A BIT AND WENT
INTO CONSULTATION AND THEN SAID HE INSISTED THAT I MUST GO AT FOUR
O'CLOCK WITH THE MARINES AND .. BUT THAT THE OFFICIALS COULD
STAY UNTIL THEY HAD TIME TO PACK. I SAID THAT IF ALL ... HE TOOK
ALL THE OFFICIALS OUT THERE WOULD BE NO GOVERNMENT, NO GOVERNMENT
TO RUN AND I SUGGESTED THAT HE KEEP THE OFFICIALS IN PLACE UNTIL HE
COULD FIND REPLACEMENTS FOR THEM OTHERWISE THE ISLANDS WOULD BREAK
DOWN COMPLETELY. I THEN SAID THAT I WANTED MY STAFF OUT WITH ME AND
HE AGREED, MY IMMEDIATE STAFF AND WIVES AND CHILDREN AND I SAID I
WANTED THE MARINE WIVES AND CHILDREN WHO WERE THERE ALSO TO COME
OUT AND HE AGREED TO THAT AND I THEN SAID WHO WILL LOOK AFTER OUR
PROPERTY? AND HE GAVE A PERSONAL GUARANTEE THAT ANY OF OUR
PROPERTY THAT WAS LEFT BEHIND WOULD BE SAFEGUARDED. ... THAT WAS
THAT AND I DIDN'T SEE THE GENERAL AGAIN. I WENT BACK TO GOVERNMENT
HOUSE TO PACK, I HAD ABOUT TWO HOURS I THINK TO PACK, WE TRIED VERY
HARD TO GET WHATEVER WE COULD, I WAS BOTHERED BY AN INTELLIGENCE
OFFICER ALL THE TIME WHO WAS TRYING TO GET ME TO DIVULGE OUR
COMBINATION LOCKS. IN THE END I HAD TO GO TO THE FIRST COMBINATION
AND OPEN IT, JUST TO PACIFY HIM, I KNEW THERE WAS NOTHING IN THE
BLISTER, WE'D THROWN THE KEYS AWAY AND HE WAS VERY ANGRY WHEN HE
SAW THAT THERE WERE NO KEYS AND HE STALKED OFF AND DIDN'T BOTHER ME
AGAIN. I ELECTED TO GO TO THE AIRPORT IN MY UNIFORM, MY
CEREMONIAL UNIFORM, AND .. WITH THE TAXI, DON BROUGHT THE TAXI
ROUND, THEY WERE TRYING TO STOP HIM BUT HE CAME AROUND, HE PUT THE
FLAG ON THE FRONT AND HE SAID HE'D THROTTLE ANY ARGIE WHO TRIED
TO TAKE THE FLAG OFF AND I GOT INTO UNIFORM AND DESPITE
PROTESTS FROM THE ESCORT ... WE WENT INTO THE TAXI, WE THEN WENT
UP TO THE STUDIO BECAUSE I WANTED TO TRY TO GIVE A FAREWELL
MESSAGE TO THE ISLANDERS. THEY WEREN'T GOING TO LET ME DO THAT AT
FIRST, I SENT A MESSENGER TO THE GENERAL SAYING, WELL, IT'S PURELY
INNOCUOUS, I'LL LET YOU HAVE .. SHOW YOU THE .. SHOW YOU WHAT I'M
GOING TO SAY IF YOU LIKE AND HE CAME BACK WITH A MESSENGER ... A
MESSENGER CAME BACK WITH HIS MESSAGE TO SAY IF I WOULD BROADCAST
TO CRITVIKENT4 TO TELL OUR PEOPLE THERE TO DESIST AND TO LAY DOWN
THEIR ARMS THEN I COULD GIVE THIS FAREWELL MESSAGE TO THE PEOPLE
IN THE FALKLANDS. I REFUSED TO DO THAT, I SAID THAT I WAS NOT GOING

TO ORDER ANYBODY IN GRITVIKEN TO PUT DOWN THEIR ARMS, I WAS PERSONALLY
VERY HEARTENED BECAUSE IT SHOWED THAT THINGS WERE GOING ON DOWN
HERE AND THEY DIDN'T LIKE IT, THEY WERE HAVING TROUBLE. IN THE END
WE COMPROMISED AND I DID AN INNOCUOUS MESSAGE DOWN TO GRIVIKEN
SAYING WHAT HAD HAPPENED IN STANLEY, I ALSO DID A FAREWELL MESSAGE
TO THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS. HE INSISTED THAT I TAPE THEM AND THE
HE TOOK THE TAPES OFF TO CENSOR THEM AND MAKE SURE I'D SAID WHAT WAS
ON THE AGREED MESSAGE. WHETHER THEY WERE EVER PUT OUT I DON'T KNOW
BECAUSE WE WERE THEN TAKEN TO THE AIRFIELD. MY OLD FRIEND HTH
THE INTELLIGENCE OFFICER WAS THERE WITH ANOTHER TWO INTELLIGENCE
OFFICERS AND THEY KEPT US FOR ABOUT TWO HOURS, THEY WENT THROUGH
EVERY SINGLE BIT OF OUR BAGGAGE, THEY TOOK THE BACKS OF THE PICTURES
AWAY, THEY RIPPED UP THE INSIDE OF THE SUITCASES, TOOK OUT EVERY BIT
OF PAPER THEY COULD FIND, READ EVERYTHING, THEY KEPT BEHIND STUPID
THINGS LIKE THE MINUTES OF OUR 150TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS CO-
ORDINATING COMMITTEE WHICH WE HAD BEEN HAVING FOR THE 3RD JANUARY,
1983, WHICH I HOPE I SHALL BE BACK THERE TO ENJOY AND THEN WE
WERE BUNDLED WITH THE ... MY DIPLOMATIC STAFF AND THE SIVES AND
CHILDREN OF THE MARINES ON TO AN F28 AND WE LEFT ABOUT TEN TO NINE
I THINK IT WAS ON FRIDAY NIGHT TO COMMODORO, THERE WE AWAITED
THE MARINES WHO CAME IN A HERCULES AND WE WERE ALL BUNDLED INTO A
BOEING 707 AND WHIPPED UP TO MONTEVIDEO WHERE WE WERE KEPT UNDER
WRAPS, I'M AFRAID I WAS NOT ALLOWED TO SPEAK TO THE PRESS THERE
FOR OBVIOUS REASONS AND WE HAD A DAY'S RESPIRE THERE, LEFT YESTERDAY
AT 1.20 VIA ASSENTION AND GOT IN AT BRIZE NORTON AT, WHAT, 9.40
THIS MORNING - AND HERE I AM. THAT'S THE FACTUAL ACCOUNT AS BEST
AS I CAN REMEMBER IT.

CHAIRMAN: REX, THANK YOU VERY MUCH INDEED, A MOST GRAPHIC
ACCOUNT. WIRE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO ADD ANTHING FROM THE MILITARY
POINT OF VIEW?

MAJOR NORMAN: I THINK NOT, I THINK THE GOVERNOR HAS COVERED
ALL THE POINTS, HE EVEN COVERED THE MILITARY POINTS AS WELL SO,
NO, THANK YOU.

CHAIRMAN: GARY, ANYTHING TO ADD?

MAJOR HUNT : NOT A LOT, SIR, NO, EXCEPT THAT I WAS ACCOMPANIED
WHILST I WAS IN THE MAIDS QUARTERS BY MARINE DOREY+ AND CORPORAL
GILL+

(LAUGHTER)

CHAIRMAN: NO IMPROPRIETY IN THE MAIDS QUARTERS ... THE GOVERNOR
AND THE TWO MAJORS WOULD BE HAPPY TO TAKE QUESTIONS. GENTLEMAN IN
THE FRONT ROW - COULD YOU PLEASE WAIT FOR THE MICROPHONE, I'M
SORRY, THIS IS A PONDERENCE PROCEDURE BUT IT'S HELPFUL.

JOURNALIST: GOVERNOR, DO YOU THINK THE FALKLANDS CAN BE
RECAPTURED WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES?

MR.HUNT: THAT'S A DIFFICULT QUESTION ...

JOURNALIST : ... A FAIRLY CRUCIAL ONE...

MR.HUNT: YES, IT CAN BE IN THE RIGHT WAY, IF IT'S DONE IN THE RIGHT
WAY. IF IT WERE DONE THE WAY THAT THE ARGENTINES DID IT WITH THE
SORT OF DEFENCE THEY'VE GOT THERE NOW THERE WOULD BE CIVILIAN
CASUALTIES IN STANLEY, YES.

?

JOURNALIST: DO YOU THINK WE'RE GOING ABOUT IT IN THE RIGHT WAY,
GOVERNOR?

MR.HUNT: I DON'T KNOW WHAT WAY WE'RE GOING ABOUT IT.

JOURNALIST: CAN I ASK THE MAJOR - DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE TO
RECAPTURE THE FALKLANDS WITHOUT CONSIDERABLE CIVILIAN CASUALTIES?

MAJOR NORMAN: QUITE FRANKLY HAVING ONLY JUST LANDED THIS MORNING
AND HAVING BEEN WHIPPED AROUND MY FEET HAVE HARDLY TOUCHED THE
GROUND YET, I HAVEN'T REALLY CONSIDERED THAT.

CHAIRMAN: I DID SAY AT THE OUTSET THAT WE WERE NOT GOING TO DISCUSS THE POLICIES OF H.M.G. I THINK THAT'S FAIR, I ALSO THINK YOU'VE HAD THREE QUESTIONS RUNNING AND WE'LL CALL THE GENTLEMAN AT THE BACK WHO WAS WANTING TO ASK....

JOHN DICKIE: (DAILY MAIL) GOVERNOR, WAS THERE AT ANY TIME IN YOUR MIND IN THE FOUR TO SIX WEEKS BEFORE THE INVASION, ANY QUESTION OF ASKING FOR REINFORCEMENTS?

MR. HUNT: NO, I DIDN'T ASK FOR REINFORCEMENTS, I THOUGHT THAT ... UNTIL THE VERY LAST MINUTE I THOUGHT THERE WOULD BE A SETTLEMENT BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS, I DID NOT THINK THAT HE WOULD, THAT GALTIERI WOULD DO SUCH A STUPID THING. SORRY, MAY I SAY - ARE YOU THE DAILY MAIL?

JOHN DICKIE: YES.

MR. HUNT: COULD I PASS A MESSAGE TO YOUR EDITOR, DAVID ENGLISH - IS HE STILL YOUR EDITOR? HE WAS VERY GRACIOUS IN SENDING ME A VERY VERY KIND LETTER OF THANKS IN SAIGON WHEN I HELPED HIM GET HIS CHILDREN OUT, IN '75, I WOULD BE VERY PLEASED IF HE WOULD NOT PUBLISH A SIMILAR GRACIOUS LETTER OF APOLOGY FOR THE GROSS MISSTATEMENT OF FACT THAT APPEARED ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE DAILY MAIL ON SATURDAY WHICH THE MARINES, OF WHOM I AM INORDINATELY PROUD, FOUND A COPY OF THAT DAILY MAIL PRESENTED TO THEM ON THE VC16 WHEN WE LEFT YESTERDAY FROM MONTEVIDEO AND IF THEY COULD HAVE GOT HOLD OF THE THREE WHO ARE SUPPOSED TO HAVE WRITTEN THAT, SAYING THAT STANLEY WAS TAKEN WITH SCARCELY A SHOT BEING FIRERD, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE NEEDED A RIFLE. I JUST POINT OUT WE DD A LITTLE ... A QUICK COUNT AROUND THERE, THE MARINES THEMSELVES - 6,457 .62 ROUNDS WERE FIRED FOUR 84 MILLIMETRE, EIGHT 66 MILLIMETRE, TWO - WHAT'S W.P.P? WHITE PHOSPHORUS, AT LEAST FIVE KILLS, SEVENTEEN HITS, ONE A.P.C. KNOCKED OUT WITH TEN INSIDE, SO THAT MIGHT BE MORE AND THRED PRISONERS TAKEN.

CHAIRMAN: I THINK GOVERNOR, OTHERS MIGHT LIKE THOSE FIGURES A BIT MORE SLOWLY. IS THAT RIGHT? WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH TO REPEAT THE FIGURES

MR. HUNT: GIVE DAVID MY BEST WISHES.. (BACKGROUND TALKING)...

CHAIRMAN: SORRY - DO PEOPLE WANT THOSE FIGURES MORE SLOWLY? WOULD YOU BE KIND ENOUGH, SO THAT PEOPLE CAN TAKE THEM DOWN.

MR. HUNT: 7 .62 ROUNDS, THAT'S 7 .62 MILLIMETRE ISN'T IT? 6450 ROUNDS WERE EXPENDED BY THE ROYAL MARINES IN THE ENGAGEMENT WHICH LASTED FOR THREE AND A HALF HOURS, IN STANLEY ON THE MORNING OF THE 2ND APRIL. FOUR ROUND -- IT'S NOT ROUNDS IS IT? FOUR ROCKETS, FOUR 64 MILLIMETRE ROCKETS AND EIGHT 66 MILLIMETRE ROCKETS, TWO WHITE PHOSPHORUS, FROM A VERY CAREFUL CHECK AND A VERY VERY ... THESE ARE CERTAINTIES, FIVE KILLZ, SEVENTEEN HITS, ONE ARMoured PERSONNEL CARRIER KNOCKED OUT, WITH TEN INSIDE, WHO NEVER SURFACED AND THREE PRISONERS TAKEN. MIKE. I THINK YOU MIGHT LIKE TO ADD TO THAT BECAUSE YOU SAW QUITE A FEW CASUALTIES

MAJOR NORMAN: YES, THE ARGENTINIAN FIGURES I THINK WERE TWO DEAD AND THREE CASUALTIES -- THREE INJURED. THEY'VE ALREADY ADMITTED TO THE ONES BY GOVERNMENT HOUSE BUT BOTH MAJOR HOOT AND MYSELF WENT TO THE HOSPITAL WITH THE COMMANDER OF THE ATTACKING FORCES ON ONE OF HIS MISSIONS, THE DOCTOR THERE SAID A LOT MORE PEOPLE WERE BEING CASEVAC, SOME WERE BEING CASEVACED DIRECT TO THEIR OWN SHIPPING AND CERTAINLY THE LYNX HELICOPTERS, WHOSE MAIN ROLE SEEMED TO BE TO FLY OUT CASUALTIES, WERE VERY BUSY FOR SOME TIME. I THINK THE FIGURES THAT THE MARINES IN FACT CLAIM THEMSELVES ARE ACCURATE AND IN NO WAY EXAGGERATED.

JOURNALIST: WOULD YOU SAY THAT THERE WERE MORE CASUALTIES THAN ACTUALLY YOU SAY HERE? THREE KILLZ. ARE YOU CLAIMING MORE FIGURES THAN THE GOVERNOR?

MAJOR NORMAN: NO, NO, I AM SAYING WHAT HAS BEEN RELEASED SO FAR IS THREE KILLED, THAT'S IN THE ARGENTINIAN PRESS AND I THINK SEVEN INJURED. I AM SAYING THAT WE BELIEVE WE KILLED FIVE PEOPLE, THERE WERE SEVENTEEN PEOPLE DEFINITELY INJURED AND THERE WERE THE PEOPLE WHO NUMBER TEN, WHICH WAS THE CREW OF THE OTHER ANTRAX+ WHO WERE NEVER SEEN AGAIN, WE WOULDN'T LIKE TO SAY WHAT HAPPENED TO THEM.

CHAIRMAN: RIGHT. MORE QUESTIONS?

JOURNALIST: SGGESTION FROM MR. ENOCH POWELL THAT THERE SHOULD BE A COURT MARTIAL OF THE MARINES FOLLOWING THIS OPERATION, WHAT IS YOUR REACTION TO THAT?

MR. HUNT: COULD I SAY THAT .. I SAID FARESELL TO THE MARINES IN THE VC10 THIS MORNING AND I SAID IT HAD BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND A PLEASURE TO KNOW THEM AND THAT THERE WAS ONE THING THAT I WAS CERTAIN OF AND THAT IS THAT I WAS PROUD AND WILL ALWAYS BE PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH THOSE MARINES IN STANLEY ON THE MORNING OF THE 2ND APRIL. DID MR. POWELL SAY WHICH FIRST-HAND NORWICH+ MARINE HE WAS GOING TO COURT MARTIAL? (PAUSE)

JOURNALIST: PERHAPS ONE OF THE MAJORS WOULD LIKE TO TELL US FROM A MILITARY POINT OF VIEW HOW SERIOUS WAS THE FIGHTING, HOW FIERCE WAS IT?

MAJOR NOOT: OH, IT WAS PRETTY SERIOUS .. WHEN BULLETS ARE FIRED AT YOU IT'S VERY SERIOUS.

JOURNALIST: WHAT WAS IT LIKE COMMANDING THE TROOPS UNDER THOSE CIRCUMSTANCES?

MAJOR NOOT: EXHILARATING - IS THAT THE RIGHT THING TO SAY? I COMMAND MY MEN, THAT IS MY JOB. IT WAS A VERY FRIGHTENING EXPERIENCE, THEY WERE TEN YARDS AWAY FROM US, WITHIN ABOUT TEN MINUTES, I THINK WE ALL VERY QUICKLY CAME TO TERMS WITH THE FACT THAT WE WERE PROBABLY GOING TO DIE IN THE NEXT HALF AN HOUR, I CERTAINLY DID. ONCE YOU CAME TO TERMS WITH THAT THE FEAR ... THE FEELING OF FEAR DISAPPEARED AND YOU GOT ON AND YOU DID YOUR JOB AND THEY ALL DID THEIR JOB EXTREMELY WELL.

JOURNALIST: IS IT TRUE THAT YOU'VE LEFT SOME MARINES BEHIND TO ORGANISE A RESISTANCE MOVEMENT?

MAJOR NORMAN: CAN'T COMMENT IN THAT.

JOURNALIST: .. KNOWING THE ISLANDERS, WOULD YOU EXPECT THEM TO TAKE TO THE HILLS AND FIGHT?

MAJOR NORMAN: SORRY?

JOURNALIST: KNOWING THE ISLANDERS WOULD YOU EXPECT THEM TO RESIST?

MAJOR NORMAN: I DON'T THINK THEY'VE GOT THE ORGANISING POWER, THERE'S SUCH SUPERIOR POWER THERE NOW, I DON'T THINK THAT THE REMNANTS OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS DEFENCE FORCE COULD ORGANISE THEMSELVES INTO ANY RESISTANCE.

JOURNALIST: THERE'S BEEN A LOT OF DISCUSSION ABOUT THE PREPARATIONS THAT COULD HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE DEFENCE OF THE ISLANDS, AS PROFESSIONAL MILITARY MEN WHAT SORT OF A FORCE WOULD YOU HAVE NEEDED TO REPULSE THE INVADERS THAT CAME ON YOU?

MAJOR MOOT: I THINK WELL I THINK ANY MILITARY MAN WOULD TELL YOU THAT WHEN YOU ATTACK AN ESTABLISHMENT YOU ATTACK IT ON A BASIS OF THREE TO ONE IN YOUR FAVOUR. THE ARGENTINIANS ATTACKED OUR FORCE ON THE STRENGTH OF TEN TO ONE.

JOURNALIST: SO WHAT SORT OF FORCE WILL WE NEED TO RETAKE THE ISLANDS?

MAJOR MOOT: THAT DEPENDS ON WHAT FORCE IS THERE. I CAN'T ANSWER THAT BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S THERE.

JOURNALIST: WAS THERE A POINT WHEN IT WAS REALISED THAT THERE WERE OVERWHELMING FORCES AND THAT WAS FAIRLY OBVIOUS FROM THE FIRST?

MAJOR NOOT: IT WAS AB

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MAJOR NOOT: IT WAS ABOUT 6.15.

JOURNALIST: YES, WAS THERE A POINT THEN THAT YOU THOUGHT THERE WAS GOING TO HAVE TO BE A VERY LIMITED MILITARY ENCOUNTER... I MEAN DID YOU SAY TO YOURSELF YOU WOULD FIGHT TO THE END OR DID YOU JUST WAIT TO SEE WHAT HAPPENED?

MAJOR NOOT: WE WERE PREPARED TO DO WHATEVER WAS NECESSARY.

CHAIRMAN: I THINK THAT'S A QUESTION FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF.

MR. HUNT: I WAS NOT PREPARED TO CARRY ON FIGHTING NEEDLESSLY AND CAUSING CASUALTIES, BOTH CIVILIAN AND MILITARY, WHEN THERE WAS NO POINT IN CARRYING ON. I THINK WE'D MADE OUR POINT, THEY CAME TO GET ME, THEY DIDN'T GET ME, THERE WAS NO POINT IN SITTING THERE WAITING FOR THE THIRTY MILLIMETRE CANNON TO COME ALONG AND BLOW GOVERNMENT HOUSE DOWN TO THE GROUND AND ALL OF US INSIDE IT AND SOME CIVILIANS TOO WHO WOULD UNDOUBEDLY HAVE BEEN KILLED OR INJURED AND CERTAINLY THEIR PROPERTY DAMAGED IF THE A.P.C.S HAD OPENED UP.

CHAIRMAN: THE GENTLEMAN AT THE BACK.

JOURNALIST: GOVERNOR, WHAT INDICATIONS DID YOU HAVE ABOUT ARGENTINIAN INTENTIONS IN THE WEEKS PRIOR TO THE INVASION?

MR. HUNT: THERE WAS A LOT OF TENSION AND THERE WAS A LOT OF SABRE-RATTLING FROM THE ARGENTINE MAINLAND, WE KNOW THAT THE SHIPS, SOME OF THE SHIPS HAD PUT TO SEA, WHAT WAS IT, TWO DESTROYERS, TWO CORVETTES, AND A SUBMARINE. MY ASSESSMENT THEN, FOR WHAT IT WAS WORTH, WAS THAT THEY WERE GOING TO SIT BETWEEN SOUTH GEORGIA AND THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND INTERCEPT THE ENDURANCE IF THE ENDURANCE CAME ALONG WITH THE TWELVE ARGENTINES FROM LEITH. BUT I DIDN'T THINK THAT AT THAT TIME THAT THEY WERE GOING TO LAUNCH A FULL NAVAL TASKFORCE AND INVADE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

JOURNALIST: DID YOU INFORM THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT OF EVEN THOSE DETAILS THAT YOU'VE JUST EXPLAINED TO US?

MR. HUNT: WELL, THOSE DETAILS WERE PUBLISHED FROM ARGENTINA AND OUR NAVAL ATTACHE PRESUMABLY CONFIRMED THAT TO THE OFFICE HERE.

JOURNALIST: GOVERNOR, DO YOU FEEL LET DOWN IN ANY WAY?

MR. HUNT: I DON'T FEEL LET DOWN, I THINK THAT WE'VE LET THE ISLANDERS DOWN, YES, THE ISLANDERS, WHEN WE LEFT ON FRIDAY, THEY FELT LET DOWN, THEY WERE CRYING AS WE DROVE OUT, THEY WERE VERY SAD. THEY THOUGHT WE WERE GOING FOR GOOD. I WOULD HOPE THAT THEY'VE GOT THE NEWS NOW THAT WE ARE SENDING A TASKFORCE DOWN AND I'M SURE THAT WILL HAVE HEARTENED THEM TREMENDOUSLY.

CHAIRMAN: YES, SIR, CAN WE HAVE A MIKE PLEASE?

JOURNALIST: COULD I JUST ASK THE ROYAL MARINES DETAILS ..DETAILS OF HOW THEY PERSONALLY WERE TREATED OR THEIR MEN WERE TREATED BY THE ARGENTINIANS DURING THEIR PERIOD OF CAPTURE, WHETHER OR NOT ANYTHING WAS SORT OF TAKEN FROM THEM OR THEIR POSSESSIONS AND WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO THEIR WEAPONS AND OTHER EQUIPMENT?

MAJOR NOOT: INITIALLY THE FORCE THAT CARRIED OUT THE ASSAULT ON MOODY BROOK AND GOVERNMENT HOUSE, WE WERE TREATED VERY WELL BY THEM, DESPITE THE FACT THAT WE DID INFLICT CASUALTIES ON THEM. HOWEVER SUBSEQUENTLY WE WERE PASSED ON TO OTHER TROOPS WHO HAD NOT BEEN ENGAGED PARTICULARLY IN THE FIGHTING AND THIS IS QUITE COMMON, OUR TREATMENT DETERIORATED. WE WERE NEVER ON ANY OCCASION ABUSED OR BEATEN, HOWEVER THEIR ATTITUDE WAS FAR LESS FRIENDLY, CO-OPERATIVE, FAR MORE ABUSIVE AND ARROGANT. WE DID IN FACT LOSE SOME ITEMS, THE COMMANDER OF THE TASKFORCE, ADMIRAL BUESSER, WHATEVER HIS NAME IS, HAD PROMISED THAT WE SHOULD BE ALLOWED TO TAKE OUT ALL OUR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AND PARTIES OF MARINES RETURNED TO MOODY BROOK SUBSEQUENTLY AND DELVED AROUND TO TRY AND FIND THEIR BITS AND PIECES. HOWEVER THEY WERE ESCORTED AND ANYTHING OF A MILITARY OR VALUABLE NATURE SEEMED TO BE REMOVED FROM THEM AND DIDN'T ACTUALLY FALL WITH THE GAMUT OF THEIR PERSONAL POSSESSIONS AS FAR AS OUR ESCORTS WERE CONCERNED. SOME PEOPLE WERE LUCKY, SOME PEOPLE WERE UNLUCKY, WE DID LOSE A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF KIT, OTHER PEOPLE GOT QUITE VALUABLE AND ATTRACTIVE ITEMS OUT. DOES THAT ANSWER YOUR QUESTION?

MR. HUNT: LIKE MY GOLF CLUBS.

MAJOR NOOT: YES.

CHAIRMAN: QUESTION OVER HERE. HAVE WE GOT A MIKE?

JOURNALIST: MR. HUNT, YOU'VE ALREADY TOLD US AND I'M SURE WE CAN ALL UNDERSTAND THAT YOUR PRIMARY CONCERN WAS TO AVOID LOSS OF LIFE WHEN YOU ORDERED THE MARINES TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS. BUT WERE YOU IN POSSESSION OF ANY PREDETERMINED BRITISH GOVERNMENT PLAN IN THE EVENT OF AN ARMED ARGENTINIAN INVASION?

MR. HUNT: I'M SORRY I DIDN'T GET THAT.

JOURNALIST: WERE YOU IN POSSESSION OF, OR WERE YOU ACTING UNDER ANY PREDETERMINED BRITISH GOVERNMENT PLAN IN THE EVENT OF AN ARMED ARGENTINIAN INVASION?

MR. HUNT: NO, AS COMMANDER IN CHIEF I HAD DISCRETION TO DO WHATEVER I COULD WITH THE FORCES I HAD AT MY DISPOSAL, TO REPEL AN INVASION OR RESIST AN INVASION.

CHAIRMAN: ANY MORE QUESTIONS HERE? YOU'VE HAD A GOT, WE'LL COME BACK TO YOU IN A MINUTE. IS THERE ONE AT THE BACK I CAN'T SEE? YES, RIGHT.

JOURNALIST: COULD I ASK THE GOVERNOR WHAT ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF AN INVASION HE WAS GIVEN BY THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IN THE DAYS LEADING UP TO THE INVASION?

MR. HUNT: WELL, THERE WERE VARIOUS SIGNS AND POINTERS, BUT WE DIDN'T GET ANY FIRM EVIDENCE THAT THEY WERE ON THE WAY AND THAT STANLEY APPEARED TO BE THE TARGET, AS I SAID, UNTIL THE AFTERNOON BEFORE.

JOURNALIST: ... FIRM EVIDENCE, I WAS ASKING FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF THE LIKELIHOOD OF INVASION. WHAT JUDGMENT WERE THEY MAKING AT THIS END AND PASSING ON TO YOU?

MR. HUNT: I THINK THAT THE HOPE HERE, AS IN B.A. AND IN THE FALKLANDS WAS THAT THE DIPLOMAT MANOEUVRES WOULD PREVAIL AND THAT THIS WAS SABRE RATTLING BY GENERAL GALTIERI.

CHAIRMAN: BUT SURELY .. AGAIN I'M SORRY, WE HAVE SAID WE ARE NOT HERE TO DISCUSS THE POLITICS OF IT, THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER OCCASIONS TO DO THAT AND I'M ITCHING TO ANSWER SOME OF THESE QUESTIONS BUT IT'S NOT THE PURPOSE OF THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. YES SIR?

JOURNALIST: CAN I ASK THE MAJORS AS SOLDIERS WHO HAVE BEEN ON THE ISLAND, WHO HAVE SEEN THE PROBLEMS, WHO HAVE SEEN SOME OF THE INVADING FORCES WHETHER OR NOT IT IS A PRACTICAL MILITARY PROPOSITION TO TRY AND RETAKE THE FALKLAND ISLANDS?

MAJOR NORMAN: OF COURSE IT MUST BE. I SAID, - OF COURSE IT MUST BE.

JOURNALIST: AT WHAT COST?

MAJOR NORMAN: WELL, (50-50) THAT IS WHAT HAS TO BE WORKED OUT. IT'S NOT A QUESTION OF COST NECESSARILY, IT'S RIDICULOUS TO SAY IT'S AN IMPRACTICAL PROPOSITION. FURTHER THAN THAT I CANNOT GO AT THIS MOMENT IN TIME.

JOURNALIST2C WHY DO YOU THINK IT IS POSSIBLE?

MAJOR NORMAN: GIVEN IF ONE COULD PRODUCE A SUPERIORITY AS THEY PRODUCED OVER US, THEN IT IS POSSIBLE.

JOURNALIST: THEY'VE GOT FOUR WEEKS IN WHICH TO PREPARE FOR OUR ASSAULT IF OUR ASSAULT COMES.

MAJOR NORMAN: - I CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER THAN THAT, YOU ASKED ME WHETHER IT WAS POSSIBLE - I SAY IT IS.

JOURNALIST: DO YOU FEEL IN ANY SENSE IT MAY BE BETTER SIMPLY TO ACCEPT THAT WE HAVE LOST THE FALKLAND ISLANDS AND TO GIVE IN WITH AS MUCH GRACE AS WE CAN MUSTER?

MAJOR NORMAN: CERTAINLY NOT. I THINK THAT'S ENTIRELY ... NO, THAT'S A NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, I THINK THAT WE MUST DO WHAT WE CAN TO GO TO THE RESCUE OF FALKLAND ISLANDERS WHO ARE BRITISH, WHO WISH TO REMAIN BRITISH AND DO NOT WANT TO BE UNDER AN OCCUPATION LIKE THE NAZI OCCUPATION OF EUROPE.

CHAIRMAN: YES SIR - OVER HERE.

JOURNALIST: GOVERNOR, WHAT IS YOUR ... WHAT ARE YOUR FEELINGS ABOUT THE FACT THAT A REGIME WITH AN APPALLING HUMAN RIGHTS RECORD IS NOW OCCUPYING BRITISH TERRITORY AND IS BY FORCE OF ARMS LOOKING AFTER OUR SUBJECTS?

MR. HUNT: WELL, I THINK IT'S SHOCKING, I DO .. I HOPE THAT WE'LL GET BACK AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE AND THAT I'LL GET BACK MYSELF TO FINISH MY TOUR AS GOVERNOR, I'M STILL GOVERNOR OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

JOURNALIST: DO YOU FEEL THAT THE FALKLAND ISLANDERS WILL BE WELL TREATED, GIVEN THE BACKGROUND OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARGENTINA?

MR. HUNT: I DON'T KNOW, THE GENERAL ASSURED ME THAT THEY WOULD BE WELL TREATED AND HE ISSUED A COMMUNIQUE TO SAY THAT THEY WOULD NOT CHANGE THEIR LIFESTYLE IN ANY WAY AND THAT THEY WOULD BE FREE TO COME AND GO AS THEY WISHED AND THAT THEY WOULD NOT BE VICTIMISED OR OPPRESSED.

CHAIRMAN: SIR, THE DECLARATION BY THE GOVERNOR IS PERHAPS NOT A BAD NOTE ON WHICH TO END, A NUMBER OF PEOPLE ARE LEAVING. A LAST COUPLE OF QUESTIONS, ONE HERE AND THERE'S ONE OVER THERE. YES?

JOURNALIST: CAN I ASK THE GOVERNOR HOW HE FEELS ABOUT THE RESIGNATION OF FOREIGN SECRETARY LORD CARRINGTON?

MR. HUNT: IT'S ENTIRELY MY OWN VIEW BUT PERSONALLY I'M ABSOLUTELY SHATTERED, I THINK IT'S A TERRIBLE EEE TERRIBLE BLOW AND A TERRIBLE TRAGEDY THAT THE BEST .. CERTAINLY THE BEST SECRETARY OF STATE THAT I'VE EVER SERVED UNDER IS RESIGNING, I THINK IT'S A TERRIBLE LOSS TO THE COUNTRY.

JOURNALIST: WILL YOU BE RESIGNING GOVERNOR?

CHAIRMAN: THE QUESTION OVER THERE.

MR. HUNT: I AM NOT RESIGNING, I HAVE NOTHING .. I'M NOT RESIGNING AS GOVERNOR OF THE FALKLAND ISLANDS.

CHAIRMAN: THE GOVERNOR HAS JUST SAID HE INTENDS TO GO BACK. YES?

JOURNALIST: GOVERNOR

CHAIRMAN: THE QUESTIONER IS OVER THERE.

I JUST WANT TO KNOW HOW MANY ... EXACTLY HOW

MANY MARINES ARE LEFT ON THE ISLAND AND IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECULATION ABOUT WHAT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM? I'M TOLD IF THEY ARE WITH COUCHES OF ARMS AND HOW THE ARGENTINE GOVERNMENT MIGHT TREAT THEM AND

MR. HUNT: I'M AFRAID I CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT.

CHAIRMAN: YES, YOU HAVE A QUESTION. CAN WE GIVE THE GENTLEMAN A MIKE?

JOURNALIST: WITH 1000 ISLANDERS THERE WHAT WILL BE THEIR FATE IF THERE IS A TERRIBLE BATTLE OFFSHORE?

MR. HUNT: I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND THAT, THEY HAD A TERRIBLE BATTLE OFFSHORE THERE IN DECEMBER 1914 WHEN THE BRITISH FLEET

JOURNALIST: IS THERE NOT A FEELING IN THE ISLANDS THAT THESE ISLANDERS WILL BE HELD HOSTAGE BY THE ARGENTINIANS?

MR. HUNT: I DON'T KNOW WHAT SORT OF FEELING THEY HAVE THERE NOW, THE FEELING WHEN I LEFT WAS ONE OF BEWILDERMENT AND SADNESS THAT THEIR HATED ARGIES HAD TAKEN OVER. I JUST DON'T KNOW WHAT THEIR FEELINGS WILL BE NOW BUT I SHOULD THINK THEY'VE BEEN EXTREMELY HEARTENED AND COMFORTED BY THE NEWS, IF THEY GOT THE NEWS, THAT THE TASKFORCE IS ON THEIR WAY.

JOURNALIST: WITH REGARD TO ... DID YOU NOT HAVE ANY INTELLIGENCE REPORTS FROM ARGENTINA, THAT THIS FORCE WAS ABOUT TO BE PREPARED SOME WEEKS BEFOREHAND?

MR. HUNT: I CAN'T COMMENT ON THAT.

CHAIRMAN: I THINK, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, YOU WOULD WISH ME TO THANK THE GOVERNOR FOR THE TIME HE'S GIVEN US AND FOR THE DRAMATIC ACCOUNT HE'S GIVEN US OF THE EVENTS. I AM BOUND TO SAY NOW THAT HAVING HAD THIS QUITE EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITY NEITHER THE GOVERNOR NOR THE TWO BAZONS WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR FURTHER INTERVIEW. I'M VERY GRATEFUL TO ALL OF YOU FOR COMING TO THIS PRESS CONFERENCE. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.