

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00

date: 7.4.82

Morning lobby was repeated.

Administration v Sovereignty

We said sovereignty had never been lost but clearly we did not have a British administration at present. HMG's objective was to regain the Falkland Islands - to re-establish British sovereignty and restore a British administration. The use of the word 'administration' did not imply leaving the door open for a lease-back arrangement.

Lease-back had been an idea in a package offered by Nicholas Ridley - lease-back, condominium or freezing. The Islanders had chosen freezing and this was the option Ridley had discussed with Argentina. The Islanders' wishes were paramount.

UK started from the basis of Security Council Resolution 502 which called for immediate withdrawal. We were not prepared to enter into what ideas could be the basis of discussions after withdrawal.

Mr Pym had no immediate travel plans - he would not be going to Damascus and Amman as Lord Carrington had planned.

We said we would not be suprised if Mr Haig were to visit London tomorrow; if he did so of course Mr Pym would see him. The US wanted to help sort out the problem peacefully. He was coming to be helpful not critical: the US supported UK's aim and shared our hope for a peaceful solution.

On 'talks about talks' we said we waited to see what Mr Haig had to say. His visit was at his own suggestion. We did not know his travel plans or meeting arrangements. The PM and President Reagan were not always on the phone to each other.

The Royal Navy had been despatched in the hope that the Argentinians would withdraw; the Navy's presence greatly strengthened the UK's negotiating position. No-one wanted to fight but the UK would not appease dictators. Any settlement must bewith the full consent of the Islanders.

On support by our allies we referred to Mr Pym's speech and added that COREPER had met today and was meeting again tomorrow. We described the response after 48 hours as 'not bad'.

Easter

PM would be spending some time at Chequers. She might well see Mr Haig if he came. Westminster would not be kept on stand-by during the recess - it would be recalled if necessary.

Mandate

The Luxembourg talks had been postponed by the Presidency until 27 April (Foreign Affairs Council, 2nd day).

Government Information Services

No co-ordinator had been decided yet.