

LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 7.35 PM date: 8.4.82

HAIG TIMETABLE

Haig arrived at No 10 just before 7 pm. This followed talks with Pym at the Foreign Office. Haig went straight into talks with the Prime Minister in the Study. Present were the Prime Minister, Mr Haig, Mr Pym, Mr Edward Streater and a British official. Meeting lasted about 1 hour 20 minutes and broke at about 7.25 pm. They then went straight into dinner.

Guest List:

Prime Minister, Foreign Secretary, Defence Secretary, Chief Defence, Staff Admiral Sir Terence Lewin, Sir Antony Acland, Mr Clive Whitmore.

Mr Haig, Mr Edward Streater, General Vernon Walters (special assistant), Mr Thomas Enders (Assistant Secretary American Affairs), Mr James Rentschler (senior staff in charge of Western Europe and North America National Security Council), Mr David Gompert (State Department).

TALKS - GENERAL NATURE

Mr Haig had not come as a mediator but as a friend and ally. He came in the full knowledge of the measures announced by the Government yesterday evening. It was made plain that the withdrawal of Argentine troops and a return to British administration was an absolute prerequisite for a solution. These were the terms of Security Council resolution 502 which was mandatory.

In particular the Prime Minister emphasised two points:

- (1) the depth and intensity of feeling in the country;
- (2) the fact that this was not simply a matter concerning the Falklands. It was a wider issue of aggression against a free people with enormous implications for the alliance and the Western world. It was vital that a dictatorship should not get away with this.

In sum Mr Haig had been given a full personal briefing by the Prime Minister of the British position. He would go to Buenos Aires with full knowledge of where we stood.

There had been, of course, a subsequent exchange of views with various possibilities being discussed. This was an area where we could not help with guidance. It was not for us to indicate the position Mr Haig had taken.

Mr Haig had been told of the decision to set up a maritime exclusion zone shortly before the Parliamentary announcement. There was no indication that Washington had been hostile to this move. There had been a request to suspend or further put off the implementation of the exclusion zone.

There had been no specific discussion of sanctions but we were looking to all our allies for help and support in this respect.

If Mr Haig went to Buenos Aires as a mediator that was a matter for him. Obviously he would be able to explain the British position and offer advice with all the great authority of his office. Maybe the Argentine Government would have heard much of what he was saying before but the

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status of a Secretary of State was such that the words might be invested with new meaning.

A Monday deadline seemed a sensible period of time to allow before implementing the exclusion zone. We were giving the Argentines more notice than they had given us.

There were no plans for further talks.

PB