

PRESS OFFICE BULLETIN

No 9596 date: 8/4/82

FALKLAND ISLANDS: PRE-HAIG

1. RW's NPO of 7 April remains valid. The following additional line is appropriate this morning.

On the Record

2. ~~Mr Pym~~ ^{THE P17} looks forward to this ~~early~~ opportunity to see renew his acquaintance with Mr Haig (they ~~last met when Haig was here on JANUARY 29 - POLAND MEETING~~ ^{last met when Haig was here on JANUARY 29 - POLAND MEETING} ~~they knew each other when Haig was SACEDUR~~). We expect the discussion to concentrate exclusively on the Falkland Islands - and issue of great importance to us both.

3. As Mr Pym said in the House of Commons on 7 April, we are asking our friends to do everything they can to help us secure the implementation of Security Council Resolution 502 and the immediate withdrawal of all Argentine forces from the Falkland Islands. Our friends in Europe and the US were among the very first to respond helpfully to our approaches.

Unattributable

4. Mr Haig is not a mediator. The State Department Spokesman has disclaimed any such role for him. We look forward to discussing with him how the US might most effectively support our efforts to secure Argentine withdrawal.
5. We are quite confident that Mr Haig understands and accepts the reality of the British position as it has been explained to Parliament. The first priority is the withdrawal of Argentine forces and the re-establishment of British administration. Thereafter, in accordance with SCR 502, we are fully prepared to 'seek a diplomatic solution' to our difficulties with the Argentine. For us the wishes of the Islanders are paramount.
6. N.B. 'But of course there cannot be any talks or any negotiations or anything of that sort until there is a

withdrawal of the Argentine troops' (Secretary of State's interview with BBC External Services on 7 April).

7. Mr Haig also knows about our Declaration of a Maritime Exclusion Zone around the Falkland Islands. This means precisely what it says. From midnight local time Sunday/Monday 'any Argentine warships and Argentine naval auxiliaries found within this Zone will be treated as hostile and are liable to be attacked by British forces'. This is not a tactical move, nor was its timing affected by Haig's visit. It is the consistent expression of the policy explained by the Foreign Secretary to the House. It 'gives us the strength from which to urge a settlement, and in the end it may only be strength that the regime in Argentina will understand'.

8. Questions about lease-back, condominiums, etc. should be answered by reference to the paramountcy of the wishes of the Islanders. Once Argentine forces have withdrawn, we are willing to negotiate a solution which the Islanders will approve.

NF

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9. Sovereignty v. administration. There is no substance to this point. British sovereignty over the Falkland Islands has never been lost. What needs to be re-established is British administration. Lord Carrington, at his press conference on 2 April, and both the Prime Minister and Lord Carrington in Parliament on 3 April, made absolutely clear that the illegal occupation of the Falkland Islands by Argentine forces did not affect British sovereignty. The Secretary of State in the House on 7 April was making the different point that our objective was not only to free the Falkland Islands from occupation, but also to return them to British administration.