

PRESS DIGEST

FALKLANDS

Treatment:

- D/Star: you tell Haig that there can be no peace until Union Jack is flying again over Islands.
- Sun: Armada move perilously closer to confrontation.
- Mirror: We sail closer to war as dispirited Haig goes home with one issue unresolved - whose flag flies over Falklands.
- Express: You stand firm and force Argentinians to back off; Whitehall not optimistic but peace still on cards.
- Mail: Haig says headlock has hardened - dangerously so; you say it is them or us - you are running out of patience with USA's equal-friends-with-both-sides stance.
- Telegraph: Britain effectively rules out Argentinian call for 72-hour truce; MPs alert today for any signs of compromise.
- Guardian: Your position in debate easier with diplomacy still in play.
- Times: We want a one flag solution and are prepared to impose it by force if necessary.
- FT: New ideas for ending crisis.

Task Force; Military

- Argentine fleet reported ready for sea again.
- Freezer trawlers requisitioned for minesweeping; North Sea oil supply vessel also required; children leave Uganda four days early philosophically; Cryer attacks £2m refit of Britannia when, on first occasion it might be used as hospital ship, it is found unsuitable.
- 28 British Marines and 13 civilians from South Georgia reported to be in Argentine; will they be kept as prisoners of war?
- 6 Marines left behind on Falklands said to be about to be repatriated.

International Moves:

- Chilean Navy puts to sea to protect oil rigs.
- Bolivia offers Argentine full support.
- OAS comes up with a mild resolution.
- NATO behind us.
- Legal and procedural difficulties cloud our diplomatic success in getting EC to impose import ban.
- British businessman says Argentine has done deal with Russia to put it on way to becoming nuclear power.
- Increasing attacks by Russia on Britain as Kremlin forms unholy alliance with right wing fascist junta.

In Falklands:

- Mark Carlisle said to be upset by brother's claim that majority of Islanders favour hand-over to Argentine.
- Telegraph says Islanders resolute and prepared for military action.
- Shirley Williams says crisis shows value of BBC World Service.

In Argentine:

- Customers fight each other to withdraw money from banks as fears of even faster inflation grow.

In USA:

- Our Embassy reports 30-40 calls a day backing us; White House getting up to 100 calls telling President to do more to back us.

In Britain:

- You have transferred control of intelligence from FCO to Cabinet Office.
- Labour lefties, led by party chairman Judith Hart, may force a vote tonight to try to secure recall of fleet but Stanley Clinton Davies puts mainstream of party behind you.

Haig's Health:

- Lots of speculation about what all this shuttling is doing to Secretary Haig's health and more particularly his heart.

Economic:

- Sanctions imposed against Argentina by Canada, New Zealand and Hong Kong.
- £2bn wiped off industrial shares yesterday, but pound firm, as war fears force up price of gold.
- Bank of England admits that emergency controls over frozen Argentine assets are riddled with loopholes.

COMMENT

- D/Star: One simple issue: Argentines have invaded a foreign country - an act of war; dictator's troops must leave or we must force them out; we must oppose international terrorism.
- Sun: Haig's flying circus grounded for the moment; but a lot of cloud allowed to conceal a very simple issue: British Islands taken by force; Haig should join Reagan in using all USA's considerable leverage to pressure Argentina to withdraw.
- Mirror: We cannot return to the position to two weeks ago; if we ask Islanders to decide their future we must be frank with them and admit we cannot afford to station a permanent force to protect them; this means sooner or later we must come to some arrangement with the Argentine; Task Force's purpose must be to support negotiations rather than replace them.
- Express: UK fully entitled to expect that if American diplomacy fails USA will support us; time is running out for Argentina which must choose between withdrawal and war.
- Mail: Our claims are clear, legitimate and honourable and if they can be achieved without spilling blood so much the better; we will not have Argentine flag flying there; we have supported the USA and they should now be firmly in our corner; they cannot be even handed in this crisis.

- Telegraph: We have gathered support of everyone we could possibly have hoped for - we have worried Argentina already and will worry her more as fleet steams south.
- Guardian: Peter Jenkins says your negotiating position has strengthened and could improve still further but British public would be ready to support any sensible and practical compromise; if your position is in danger it is not through suspicion of softness but inflexibility; leader says a hard choice between UK and Argentine; Reagan is best hope of getting Galtieri to climb down the necessary notch or two.
- Times: Naval response not hostile; seeks only to quarantine aggression; we must be prepared for a long wait; and Britain should start pressing for more help from USA morally and materially; US administration cannot long remain uncommitted in this crisis and expect Britain not to draw unfavourable conclusions in the future.

OTHER NEWS

Unions/Pay:

- COHSE to reduce NHS to emergency work from April 26 but RCN not to take part.
- Bid to line up NUT behind CND fails.
- President of NAS attacks the permissive society and says it is turning out delinquent and badly disturbed children.
- Unions ask Chemical Industries Association to pledge not to use Employment Bill.

Economy:

- Telegraph says fiscal policy was tighter than expected last year and could be correspondingly too restrictive this year - one way of interpreting "good" CGBR figures.

Industry:

- BP likely to sell 15% stake in Beatrice oilfield; a departure because of fall in demand; NS oil industry said to be in doldrums because of Government tax policies.
- Messey Ferguson to ballot workers in strike hit factory at Coventry because it believes they want to go to work.
- Honeywell to create 100 new jobs in Lanarkshire.
- CEBG wants to import more foreign coal and hopes this will persuade NCB to keep its prices down.
- Shares in Chunnel company fall steeply on Cairncross's pessimistic report about economic prospects.
- De Lorean reaches agreement in principle for its cars to be available for rent at 30 airports in USA.
- Sealink becomes first nationalised industry to ask workers to take pay cuts to save jobs.
- Japanese car makers may be heading for deepest slump in output since 1973 because of low demand.

Local Authorities:

- Labour claims that public anger over London Transport fares will help it at local elections.
- Michael Heseltine article in Times on why we must all make it out business to save our inner cities.

Health:

- Doctor leaks report which shows Scotland and Wales have highest death rates from heart attacks in world - leaks it because fears Welsh Office are suppressing it.

Ireland:

- Priest who masterminded IRA bomb blasts in Britain to be released in July - hopes to return to parish.

People:

- Lord Greenwood dies.
- Annual Gallup shows you are the most unpopular Prime Minister since the war and Michael Foot the most unpopular party leader.
- David Steel to miss today's debate - in New York to lecture.

Law and Order:

- Sun hopes BBC TV producer will not name man allegedly guilty of crime for which father and son have served 9 years; real justice should be in real courts of law not on TV screen.
- Doctors in Sheffield take judo lessons to protect themselves from aggressive patients.

International:

- Middle East in ferment as Israeli soldiers shoot dead 7 year-old Arab boy; 8 wounded in riot; Israel says it has not taken any decision to invade Lebanon.
- EC: Increased expenses for Euro MPs.
- Rangoon: 8000 homeless in string of fires.
- Poland: Underground Radio Solidarity makes its first broadcast and calls for release of thousands of detainees.
- Afghanistan: Soviet Union starts spring offensive against freedom fighters.
- USA risks breach with Peking by sending military spares to Taiwan.
- South Africa: Neil Aggett who allegedly hanged himself in prison made sworn statement 14 hours before death that he had been tortured.

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14 April 1982