

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11 AM date: 16.4.82

## PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

Working in No 10 this morning. Expected to leave for Chequers this afternoon.

White paper list - none.

## PRIME MINISTER'S MOVEMENTS

The Prime Minister hopes to get away to Chequers but if this does not happen no great significance should be attached to the change in plans. It was ludicrous to say - as some papers had - that Downing Street was on a war footing. Obviously the Prime Minister wanted to stay close in touch and it was entirely possible that she might decide to do so by remaining at No 10 rather than Chequers. No formal meetings of Ministers planned. The Prime Minister will of course be talking to colleagues.

## HAIG SHUTTLE

We had no indication of when Mr Haig might come to London. The expectation was obviously that he would come.

## ANDERSON TAPES

The authenticity of the tapes was a matter for the US authorities. We didn't want to offer any thoughts on the tapes. We appreciated what Mr Haig was trying to achieve. On flexibility it would be fair to say that we were less flexible than the Argentines because they had a lot more to be flexible about....they invaded and it was for them to withdraw. Before the invasion we were quite willing to be flexible in the diplomatic negotiations on the future of the Falklands.

## FALKLAND PUBLIC OPINION

Falklanders wishes of primary importance. How Falklander public opinion could be sounded out would be a matter to be looked at after the Argentine troops had withdrawn. We could not speculate on the alternatives available.

## AIR EXCLUSION ZONE

This a matter to be looked at later. You had to have the means to enforce a zone.

## HUNGRY TROOPS

Young troops in a cold climate would tend to be hungry so reports of asking for food from islanders not all that surprising.

## PARLIAMENTARY

There was no decision on whether there would be a statement on Monday. It was open as to whether there would be a debate in the course of next week.

PB

MESSAGES OF SUPPORT FROM USA

Correspondence section have produced the following figures:

Up to Saturday 11 April they had had some 400 telegrams from American individuals split evenly between those who were right behind the UK and those who were afraid of an escalation into a Third World War.

Letters (mostly UK but including a large volume of foreign mail) numbered 4,996 up to 14 April. The foreign post has not been analysed yet; a full break-down will be available later this week.

Phone-calls Both the switchboard and the correspondence section have received some dozens of phone-calls from Americans - all of them very supportive.

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