

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 11 AM date: 19.4.82

## PRIME MINISTER'S DAY

The Prime Minister is working in No 10 all day. She would probably be in the House for the Statement.

## IN THE HOUSE

### STATEMENTS

My Pym will make a Statement at 3.30 pm on the Falkland situation.

No Answers of Interest identified.

### BILL

The Northern Ireland devolution plan Bill will be presented tomorrow and published on Wednesday.

We rehearsed the weekend events:-

The Prime Minister arrived at Chequers 6 pm Friday; returned to No 10 at 8 pm Saturday, took a short phone call from President Reagan at 8.30 pm (5-10 minutes, not substantive) then had a meeting with colleagues - Pym, Nott, Whitelaw, Defence Chiefs - for 2 hours to review the situation. She returned to Chequers at midnight, attended church on Sunday morning and returned to No 10 at 6pm. There was no meeting but she kept in touch by phone.

We said the Prime Minister was seeing colleagues again this morning to bring herself up-to-date.

We did not know of Haig's movements - much depended on the outcome of the Buenos Aires talks. Haig had not been in touch with the Prime Minister.

It was far too early to talk about other possibilities if Haig failed.

We did not know that the Task Force was slowing down.

The Prime Minister would not necessarily make a statement tomorrow; the Government intended to keep the House fully informed. We did not expect the Defence White Paper to be changed as a result of the Falklands crisis.

We said Mr Biffen was not a member of the group of Ministers meeting today; it was possible Mr Parkinson might have been there. He was being kept informed.

On beginning hostilities we said the Government had to take executive decisions and would do so peacefully. Clearly it wanted to carry the House with it. The aim remained to secure the peaceful withdrawal of the invading forces and let the islanders express their view. Asked about Privy Council exchanges we said the Leader of the Opposition had last week expressed no wish to alter the present arrangements.

The Prime Minister had not expressed a view about the arrest of the three British reporters but clearly would be concerned.

Asked if Mr Muldoon was visiting the UK next month we said it had not been announced yet; his visit was arranged a long time ago and was unconnected with the Falklands.

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## SECURITY COMMISSION REPORT ON POSITIVE VETTING

We did not expect it this week.

## HEAVY LORRIES

Not for a few weeks.

## PARLIAMENTARY BUSINESS

We expected this to continue as scheduled.

## PRIME MINISTER'S DIARY

Cabinet would meet on Thursday. There was a reception for entrepreneurs on Tuesday and the Prime Minister would say a few words at the Civic Trust dinner on Thursday. The President of the Cameroons would come in for lunch and talks on Wednesday. The Prime Minister was due to visit British Aerospace at Kingston on Friday morning. We said that most of these engagements were subject to cancellation.

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