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SW/82/602
9/31/F

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20.7.82
Mrs Beaver -
DS 111

NOTE FOR THE RECORD

SECOND BRIEFING FOR EDITORS ON FALKLANDS EMERGENCY

... With the Secretary of State's approval, PUS held a further meeting with Editors on 20 April to follow up the earlier meeting on 7 April to discuss media coverage of the Falkland Emergency. A list of those who attended is attached at Annex. The meeting was entirely private.

2. PUS began by requesting continued caution over the publication of information of the kind he had mentioned at the last meeting (viz operational plans and capability, intelligence, deployments of ~~3~~ units). He went on to request caution in three particular areas:

a. Assistance being provided to UK forces by foreign countries eg Senegal and Portugal (which might be withdrawn if there was publicity).

b. Argentine disinformation; while the media were being careful about reporting information from South American sources, it was clear that a good deal of untruthful material was being put about there (eg that Argentine Mirage IIIs were based at Port Stanley).

c. Impending operations; the task force now provided the Government with many military options and it was important that the Argentines did not learn which might be mounted and when.

3. The Editors were then invited to comment on how the facilities provided for their organisations were working. Generally they appeared to be satisfied. Amongst particular points that arose were:

a. The standards of censorship aboard ships varied widely. PUS commented that this was inevitable since some would be in more sensitive locations than others and Commanding Officers varied in outlook; but MOD would try to get more consistency.

b. There was an unfilled market for 'local boy' stores particularly in local radio programmes and newspapers.

c. If operations began, a rapid news release system would be essential; MOD should provide a spokesman who could appear on TV and radio (as Mr Fenn of the FCO had done during the Zimbabwe negotiations); and there might need to be correspondents permanently based in MOD. PUS undertook to look into all these points.

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4. There followed a number of questions about aspects of the current emergency. Two key issues raised were:

a. How long would it be before operations might commence? PUS pointed out that submarines were already operating in the area, but elements of the main task force could arrive within anything up to a week. Clearly deployments were being carefully integrated with the evolution of diplomatic negotiations to create maximum pressure for a peaceful solution.

b. Was there any truth in the US reports that elements of the task force were close to South Georgia? PUS said he could offer no comment on this.

5. Editors said that they found the meetings to be very useful and it was agreed that a further meeting would be held in about a week's time.

21 April 1982

S Webb

S WEBB
PS/PUS

Distribution:

Internal

- PS/S of S
- PSO/CDS
- PS/2nd PUS
- DUS (P)
- DUS (N)
- AUS (D Staff)
- DNW
- DCPR
- SECCOS
- Sec/DPBC

External

- D J Wright Esq, Cabinet Office
- L P Wright Esq, Home Office
- P R H Wright Esq CMG, FCO

9/31/F

SUBJECT:

PUS Editors' Meeting

MOD:

MB HR27

DATE:

Tuesday, April 19, 1982

TIME:

1750 for 1800

* Represented on board
Task Force.

	Newspaper, Agency, etc	Reporters	Photography.	Other details
1.	* Daily Express	Christopher Ward	Editor	Robert MacGowan ^{En Smith}
2.	* BBC Radio	John Wilson	Editor	
3.	* BBC Radio	Larry Hodgson	Deputy Editor	Robert Fox
4.	* BBC Television	Allan Protheroe	A/DG	Brin Harrahan
5.	* IRN	Peter Thornton	Editor	Kim Sebido
6.	Financial Times	G.D. Owen	Editor	
7.	* ITN	David Nicholas	Editor	Michael Nicholson Jeremy Hands + Tech Staff
8.	* PA	David Chipp	Editor-in-Chief	Peter Arden + Martin Cross
9.	* Daily Mirror	Richard Stott	Assistant Editor	Alister McQueen
10.	* Daily Mail	David Tytler	Assistant Editor	David Norris
11.	* Daily Star	Brian Hitchens	Editor	Michael Seamer
12.	* Sunday Times	Frank Giles	Editor	John Shirley
13.	BBC External Services	Ken Brazier	Editor	
14.	Reuters	Graham Stewart	Chief Correspondent	
15.	* Daily Telegraph	William Deedes	Editor	Chris Lawrence ^{McQueen}
16.	Economist	Dudley Fishburn	Exec. Editor	
17.	* Times	Fred Emery	Exec. Editor	John Little
18.	* Sun	David Shapland	Deputy Editor	Tony Snow
19.	* Newspaper Conference	M. Barrington-Ward	Vice-Chairman	Arthur Low (H. J. ...)
20.	* Observer	Donald Treford	Editor	Patrick Bishop
21.	Mail On Sunday	A. Shrimmsley	Assoc. Editor	
22.	* Guardian	Peter Preston	Editor	George Perry Paul Keel
23.	News of the World	Derek Jameson	Editor	
24.	Sunday Mirror	Bill Hagerty	Assist. Editor	
25.	Sunday People	Ernest Burrington	Assoc. Editor	
26.	Sunday Express	Michael Toner	Political Editor	

Peter Lwoon Editor BBC TV News

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