

25/4

PRESS DIGEST FOR SUNDAY 25 APRIL

Falklands

Two aspects dominate the press today.

Late news of the introduction of a no-go zone in the South Atlantic which fuels the feeling that runs through the reporting that force will have to be used if we are to get the Argentines off the Islands; landing on South Georgia thought to be imminent; Observer, reporting from Washington, says Americans fear that war is inevitable;

An allegation in the News of the World that there is to be a sell out - and a wider feeling that we are ready for compromise on the interim administration and the flying of flags and that the paramountcy of the Islanders wishes does not necessarily add up to a veto.

Military

Crewman of helicopter forced to ditch becomes the task force's first casualty.

Argentina says the weather in South Georgia would foil an invasion; Mirror says two frigates and a troop carrier are riding out a hurricane there.

In the UK

14,200 jobs reprieved for a short period at Portsmouth and Chatham.

Former Prime Ministers canvass for the enquiry into the handling of the Falklands issue.

Government is adopting a policy of wait and see over British participation in the World Soccer Cup.

Politics

Mirror writes off John Nott who, it says, has slipped disastrously on his climb up the greasy pole; but Express says he could emerge intact from a victory in the South Atlantic.

John Junor says Mr Pym puts the fear of God into him.

Adam Raphael, Observer, says reports that the Cabinet is split are wrong but potential divisions are there.

In the Falklands a report of the British/^{owner-}editor of a newspaper there that the bodies of 50 Argentine soldiers have been washed up on the shore. after our marines sank a landing craft during the original invasion.

In the Argentine

Both Sunday Times and Observer worry about their journalists held on charges on spying - Observer says the decision to go ahead with the prosecution is based on a political rather than a judicial calculation since they were only doing their job.

Thousands of Britain's living in Argentina ignore British advice to leave; the Argentines set up a national mobilisation centre in the event of war.

Telegraph, reporting from Buenos Aires, says his impression is that public opinion there is prepared to see the crisis through to the bitter end but what will happen to national unity afterwards is another matter.

International

Canada refuses to stop nuclear fuel exports to the Argentine.

Observer says EC support may end after we begin firing.

Comment

People: let us keep the support, domestic and international, for the task force but we shall only do so, if, after retaking South Georgia, we use force only as a last resort.

Mirror: Britain is totally in the right and Benn's lack of outrage over the fascist junta is remarkable; but we should not have used Haig who should have been on our side. We must use the UN; Woodrow Wyatt says the Government should not be afraid to do what is necessary because he believes the majority of the people would back the use of force - the UN cannot and wont get the troops out.

News of the World, under heading "Why we must go to War", says Britain now waits for you to get on with it whatever the bloody consequences; to accept anything less than total withdrawal would be to step on the graves of those who died fighting the Galtieries of over 40 years ago; Admiral Hill-Norton says the psychological effect of recapturing South Georgia would be dramatic in Buenos Aires.

Express, commenting on the success of your resolution of economic policy, says that the Falklands could have occurred under any Prime Minister but if it had to happen we should be pleased that we had one as resolute as you handling it; Michael Toner casts doubt on whether we can ever really count upon the Americans for our defence and says we must retain an individual capability to defend ourselves.

Telegraph: the British opposition is as strong as is British resolve but it would be odd if the organisation (UN) which has given us such a strong position over the dispute were to play no part in resolving it.

Observer, under heading "Oh What an Unnecessary War", reviews the three main stages and says that if we did go to war we should embark upon a path of increasing danger and international isolation which could only make an eventual settlement more difficult.

Sunday Times: says that whatever prospects may exist now or in the future for an acceptable solution would be jeopardised if we were now to forswear the use of force but this is the moment for statesmanship and not military adventurism.

OTHER NEWS

ECONOMY

News of the World says the sharp fall in inflation means that your monetary policies are bearing fruit; to achieve a reduction in inflation without price or wage controls is little short of miraculous.

Telegraph: says that if all eyes were not now focussed on the Falklands comment today would almost certainly be devoted to the clear signs that we are winning the domestic economic battle.

David Scholey tipped by the Express as the next Governor of the Bank

SDP approves a policy document aimed to reduce unemployment from 3 to 1.25 m over 5 years.

Cambridge Economic Policy Group to publish a report tomorrow which suggests that unemployment may go on rising right through 1980s.

UNIONS/PAY

The Government is calling for volunteers to meet the hostile strike campaign; union members not likely to co-operate with them.

Sunday Times says the Government hopes of limiting 2.5 m public service workers to 4% have received a sharp set-back because of the Civil Service arbitration award of 5.9 - 6.5% which Treasury Ministers are believed to be ready to accept.

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Sunday Times: says port employers expect an all out strike from 10 May unless Mr Tebbit can advise a compromise.

NUM to demand Joe Gormley's woman driver who retired with him to pay back half of her £8 thousand golden handshake.

INDUSTRY

Post Office to cut out late collection service in London to save cash.

A major reorganisation for British Airways splitting into long and short haul - in effect the return of BOAC and BEA.

An inquiry to be started into how the man who recovered gold from HMS Edinburgh was supplied with inside information, it is alleged, from the Department of Trade and the Salvage Association.

Plans to import Japanese cars made in Australia anger British manufacturers who see it as a backdoor move of getting round the gentlemen's agreement to limit Japanese imports to 11% of total sales.

LAW AND ORDER

Demonstration against the use of animals at Porton Down laboratories, smashes through perimeter fence.

Labour spokesman demands an official statement on the fate of three Saudi Arabians, one believed to have been beheaded, who were sent home after a homosexual attack on a police cadet at a police college where they were studying.

People says that whatever the outcome of the investigation into the case of the West Indian couple who were awarded damages for an assault by the police it shows that blacks can get justice in white courts.

40 police with riot shields faced 50 stone-throwing youths in Toxteth last night but it was all quiet by midnight.

Unpaid fines now total £50m.

Observer exclusive alleging that a Detective Chief Inspector in Scotland Yard who was ordered to uncover corruption has covered it up instead.

IRELAND

Observer says the Government will resist any ban on plastic bullets.

POLITICS

Telegraph expects the Beaconsfield by-election to be 27 May.

Observer says the Alliance advance is slowing down in the North.

Middle East: Sinai hand-over being completed.

El Salvador: Extreme right wing D'Aubuisson emerges as the most powerful politician.