

Scudder

OPERATIONS ON AND AROUND SOUTH GEORGIA =

Points to Make in any Briefing

1. Ministers are in political control of the task force and operational orders given to it but the conduct of any operation is a matter for the military on the spot. That cannot be controlled from 8,000 miles distance. Ministers are kept fully in touch with what is going on.
2. It is perfectly legitimate not to say when any orders were given until such time as we choose to release this information. We must never forget that lives might be at stake and other related operations could be affected.
3. It can be assumed that Ministers were aware of the events concerning South Georgia and Cabinet was fully briefed on Thursday as matters stood at that time. They were aware that the force was off South Georgia and Ministers knew its objectives.

IF ASKED IF WE TOLD THE AMERICANS OF OUR INTENTIONS

The Americans were well aware from what we had said directly to them and what had been said publicly by Ministers in Parliament that the use of force could not be ruled out. It can be assumed that once the operation was underway that we kept them informed.

1K-25/4/82
2300

DF 24-25 APRIL, 1982

- 1030 Mr Pym returns from Washington and goes straight into a meeting with the Prime Minister to report on his visit. No other Ministers present.
- 1215 Mr Pym leaves No.10. Short statement; says he will be coming back later in the day to report further to Prime Minister and colleagues.
- 1815 Prime Minister meets with Ministers (usual group - Mr Pym, Mr Nott, Mr Whitelaw, Mr Parkinson plus Sir Michael Havers. Officials also available for consultation including Sir Terence Lewin (CDS) and Sir Ian Sinclair (FCO Legal Adviser).
- 2105 Meeting breaks up. Very short statement to press by Mr Pym.
- 2250 Prime Minister leaves for Chequers.
- Sunday 0100 UN Security Council Document circulated in New York warning Argentina that any threat to British forces by naval vessels, military aircraft and civilian aircraft will encounter appropriate response. MOD announce in London.
- 1100 Cabinet Sub-Committee (Mr Whitelaw, Mr Pym, Mr Nott, Mr Parkinson) visit Northwood (departed 12.30).
- 1200 MOD Press Briefing. Announcement of British helicopter attack on Argentine submarine.

1300 hrs Mr Pym, Mr Nott and Mr Parkinson arrive
at Chequers for lunch and talks.

Officials and Defence Chiefs arrived
about the same time or earlier.
Mr Whitelaw was hosting a lunch elsewhere
and did not join the talks until 3 pm.

1700 hrs Talks break up.

1735 hrs Prime Minister leaves Chequers for Windsor
Castle.

1820 Prime Minister arrives Windsor Castle for
Audience with Her Majesty.

Audience lasted approximately 75 minutes.

1955 Prime Minister left Windsor for 10 Downing Street.

2035 Prime Minister arrives No.10

2105 Statement outside No.10 by the Prime Minister and
Mr Nott.