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The Secretary of State gave a press conference <sup>Net</sup>  
in Luxembourg at the end of the Council of Ministers <sup>27/4</sup>  
meeting on the Mandate on 27 April. Following is edited  
transcript.  
PYM:

This is the first time I have attended a Council of Ministers and I am very glad to be here in spite of some other onerous preoccupations. But the <sup>very</sup> fact that I am <sup>here</sup> in the circumstances <sup>here</sup> underlines the great importance <sup>that the</sup> which I attach to the Community and it is very important ~~to~~ solidarity that we have shown in recent months and years should be maintained, ~~and~~ ~~we~~ we have had a very good discussion. // Perhaps I should begin by saying that over lunch we also had a talk about the Middle East and we have issued a statement following the withdrawal from Sinai of the Israelis. And I also took the opportunity of bringing Foreign Ministers up to date on the situation in the Falklands where we are still doing everything possible to achieve a peaceful settlement which everyone would prefer. I think it's well known that the Task Force draws nearer and Mr Haig is still active and we must hope for peace and I told them also something about the events in S. Georgia. // But of course the whole weight of the meeting was on the Mandate and I think my predecessor warned you after the last meeting in March that it would be hard work when we resumed and it certainly has been that today. He was quite right. We have been talking about both the method by which we could tackle the problem and to a very limited extent some figures. It was mainly about method and we explored very carefully and very thoroughly the ideas that have been proposed and I think the fact that we did that at such lengths does represent progress. We are not yet at the point of reaching decisions but as ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ that moment draws nearer it is natural for everyone to fight their own corner and I've certainly been doing that very hard today. ~~and~~ I'd like to say to you that I see this problem essentially as a Community problem. It happens to be the budget relating to Britain (2) that is under review but that is in fact a Community problem. [It arose you will recall from the Accession Treaty when we joined the Community and at that

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time it was envisaged that if circumstances altered or conditions changed then there might very well have to be adjustments made in the budget and that in fact has happened and in 1980 arrangements were made that lasted for two years and what we are talking about now is an arrangement that will go on from 1982. // I have been hoping and we have been working all along like my predecessor was for a long term solution lasting about five years. That came up for discussion today because a number of Members of the Community feel that it is too long a time. For my own part I would hope that we can try and achieve a fairly long term solution because otherwise we simply put off the argument and the dispute and the discussion till another time. Well, I don't know what conclusion we will ultimately reach on that but at any rate I hope we will be able to get a reasonably long term solution. // The procedure that we have now agreed on the suggestion of Mr Tindeman is that we should take a few days to reflect now and the two Presidents will discuss these further with us and no doubt with others and we shall take up the discussions again I should think probably in the meeting on the 8/9 May. I think that is probably what will happen. ~~At any rate~~ // Our hope and desire is to achieve a solution as quickly as we can and a solution that is not only fair for Britain but is fair for the Community too. It is very important that the arrangements we make between each other are seen to be fair and I am sure that is the way upon which we can best build a future of the Community which at the moment as you know has shown a great deal of solidarity. So that's where the position remains today and we will be continuing the discussions on the Mandate later.

BUDGET | CAP LINK ?

John.....

Foreign Secretary, Do you think you and your colleagues in the Cabinet have been able to form a sufficiently clear view of the budgetary consequences of the discussed price increase for agriculture products to enable a decision to be reached by Agricultural Ministers at the meeting which I understand is to be resumed tomorrow or the day after.

PTM

A. Yes there are meetings tomorrow. I don't think anything

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has been changed so far as that is concerned. This was discussed too at our meeting and a number of countries feel very strongly about it, and, Of course, in <sup>the</sup> one sense and legal sense there is no connection. But on the other hand it was decided that all three chapters of the Mandate should go together so that in that sense there is a connection between the two subjects, and Particularly in the case of Britain there is a practical point because the CAP as you know cost us a great deal of money and it could be that decisions on agricultural prices could cost us quite a lot of money so we have to have that in our minds at the same time as we are negotiating what is for us a very important matter namely the budget. So the two go together. But they did make very strong representations to me ~~xxx~~ but I'm afraid that I left them in no doubt to expect that the situation will remain as it is.

(Kate)

#### BUDGET/FALKLANDS LINK?

Q May I ask you Mr Pym. There have been expressions that you are glad that solidarity has been shown by your colleagues over the matter of the Falkland Islands. Has there been mention at any time in the day or even hinted that they would welcome some feeling of solidarity from Britain with regard to Common Market prices and Mandate matters? Has it been put that in return for some solidarity on political/foreign <sup>affairs</sup> ~~policy~~ front there should be a reciprocal effort from the UK.

A: No. There has not. No suggestion of that kind not at all. But may I say that I do think it is very important to the Community that this budget matter should be resolved quickly and as I say the basis upon which I want to see that done is a basis which is fair to the Community as well as to Britain.

#### EC SUPPORT OVER FALKLANDS

MICHAEL BRUNSON

Q Foreign Secretary, how would you describe the level of support today among your colleagues over the Falklands issue and what is your reaction to it?

A: Very robust. There was no question about that at all. I think it was probably as difficult for Italy as for any country but Sr Colombo was forthright and supportive without any question of doubt. So it was unanimous and strong.

Q: ~~And you are pleased by it? (obviously)~~

A: ~~Indeed I am. I am grateful for it. I came over last week. Thanked them for it and we talked about it today and updated them on the situation ~~xxxxx~~ as I saw it but they were just as supportive as they had been from the outset.~~

#### MANDATE

IAN MURRAY

Q: Foreign Secretary, in his <sup>press</sup> ~~said~~ briefing President Tindeman said that the other Nine countries in the Community were very close on figures and on ~~method~~..... Would those figures be a long way from what Britain is looking for? ~~er would Britain feel that those figures.....~~

A: Yes, a long way from what Britain is looking for.

Q: Would it be possible to bridge that gap in the course of one more meeting?

A: That remains to be seen doesn't it. I would like somehow for the issue to be resolved because I think its to everybody's advantage. ~~that~~ <sup>we</sup> We have each of Parliaments to think about and what they would regard as fair, and that's why I want the ~~.....~~ <sup>we</sup> treaties done to be fair to all members of the Community. We have to see whether we can reach it. I am very anxious to do so.

Q: You don't feel with all the solidarity that Britain is a bit isolated on this point?

A: Well we are isolated on this point partly because it happens that we alone are in a unique position of being a major contributor, not in 1981 but we would be without an adjustment in 1982 onwards a major contributor when our standard of living and general wealth would suggest that we ought to be a net beneficiary, <sup>although we</sup> ~~so there is an imbalance and an unfairness there.~~ It happens to have fell to us so that in that sense we are

isolated  
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~~isolated but~~ I look upon it as a Community problem because unless all the arrangements we make between each other are fair and seem to be fair between each Member then I don't think the Community is as strong as it ought to be.

.....  
~~No, we've taken the view that although our situation and our circumstances would really make us in fairness a beneficiary~~  
~~we~~ have taken the view we ~~could~~ <sup>will</sup> be a small net contributor.

were

~~Q: NBC News: ~~any~~ any reservations expressed by fellow foreign ministers at some point their solidarity has been waived should Britain's forces ..... if so what effect might that have on Britain's policies?~~ ) ????

~~A: No there was no suggestion of that at all and we didn't have that type of conversation at any point in the day.~~

Q: Did the other Nine show any movement at all towards any of the proposed changes which your predecessor urged on the ~~Thorn~~ <sup>Tindemans</sup> of this proposal?

A: No, we talked about a number of them and some of them do ~~undoubtedly~~ undoubtedly raise difficulties for some Member countries. So that particular structure, though we support the principle underlying it and the methodology underlying it, it is in some difficulty. But we can reflect further whether there are any other changes which might be incorporated which could make it more acceptable. ~~we~~ We have just explored it all. That is what happened today and that was useful.

~~Q: Foreign Secretary, you put your colleagues up to date on the Falklands I wonder whether you might do the same for us particularly in regard to the rumours that are going around that British forces may have landed on the Falkland Islands.~~