

# LOBBY BRIEFING

time: 4.00 pm date: 28/4/82

## WEEKEND BRIEFINGS

The Lobby Secretary (John Fisher) advised the Lobby that during the Falkland Islands crisis an arrangement had been worked out with No. 10 that members of the Lobby could phone in to the No. 10 switchboard to enquire whether or not any special briefings had been set up. The No. 10 Press Office would inform their switchboard what briefings if any, had been set up. This arrangement would mean that Lobby members would not need to be put through to the Duty Press Officer unless they had other points to raise.

The morning Lobby was repeated.

## Haig proposals

The American proposals put last night to the Argentine Government were marginally different from those brought back from Washington by Mr. Pym. We had also received the text which was being considered. Cabinet was aware of it but had not taken any decision on it. We did not know when we would react to it. We had no information about any Argentine response.

We rejected suggestions that HMG was committed to these proposals. They had not been approved by us. When Mr. Pym returned from Washington he acknowledged there were difficulties. These had not been dissipated. There was no deadline but it was clear that Haig did not envisage an endless period of negotiation. In response to questions about a 4.00 a.m. deadline this morning we said that to the best of our knowledge this was not the case; Haig's mission was not over as no reply had been received from Argentina.

## Total exclusion zone

It was not surprising that we had given notice of this. The MEZ had been announced on 7 April and imposed on 12 April.

## Interim administration - US/UN

In her Panorama interview the Prime Minister had mentioned these possibilities. We must wait and see. The Prime Minister certainly had not ruled out a UN role, but we were not encouraging this.

/ The Pope

The Pope

We were aware of one message to The Queen on 17 April, which the Prime Minister had referred to in the House yesterday.

US position

If negotiations broke down we would expect the US to side with us very quickly. We certainly expected them to impose sanctions in such an event. We had not requested military support.

Reagan

The Prime Minister had not spoken to Mr. Reagan. We did not know if Mr. Pym had spoken to Mr. Haig since his return to Washington.

Mr. Nott's good news

We understood that on his arrival and departure from No. 10 Mr. Nott had referred to having some news for the press later today. We took this to refer to the imposition of the TEZ.

Thursday's debate

The Prime Minister would be opening the debate. We assumed that Mr. Foot would also be taking part.

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