

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

FALKLAND ISLANDS: 28 APRIL 1982Haig's Proposals

1. On the Record. The American Government put their formal proposals to the Argentine Government yesterday. They have now given us the text. The proposals are under consideration.
2. Unattributable. 'Under consideration' - not at this morning's Cabinet.
3. Addressed to both sides? I have said that both sides have the text and that the proposals are under consideration. But the crucial decision is whether the Argentine Government will agree to withdraw all its forces from the Falkland Islands in accordance with SCR 502.
4. What are the proposals? They are recognisably developed from the ideas which emerged from the shuttle. The important difference is that they are now, for the first time, put to Buenos Aires with the full authority of the United States.
5. Ultimatum? I understand that Mr Haig has made it clear that he expects an early response from Argentina.
6. All other questions - refer to the Americans.

Dead Prisoner

7. [The MOD will announce this morning an incident which took place on 26 April on South Georgia involving the death of an Argentine prisoner of war.]
8. All questions to the MOD, but we may say the following.
9. On the Record. The Brazilian Ambassador called at the Foreign Office at our request at 9.30 a.m. today. He was received at senior official level [Mr Giffard]. In accordance with our obligations under the Third Geneva Convention, he was asked to inform the Argentine authorities of the incident .

10. Unattributable. As the MOD have said, instructions have been given for the convening of a Board of Enquiry in South Georgia which is to complete its deliberations as soon as possible. This, too, is in accordance with the Third Geneva Convention.

Total Exclusion Zone

11. The MOD announced at Noon today that a Total Exclusion Zone is to be declared around the Falkland Islands from Noon BST on 30 April. Details and Q and A brief have been circulated separately.

Rio Treaty

12. The Rio Treaty Resolution was reported in Washington telnos 1490 and 1491.

13. On the Record. We have no comment on this Resolution.

14. Unattributable. The Resolution clearly fell far short of Argentine hopes. As we have said from the beginning, while there is considerable support in Latin America for Argentine claims to sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, there is very little support for Argentine aggression in pursuit of her claim. The Rio Treaty signatories have adopted no measures. I understand that the British Embassy in Washington has described the Resolution as 'neutral and without consequence'.

Call on UK to 'Cease Hostilities'?

15. It was not the UK who started hostilities. We have the right to self defence under Article 51 of the UN Charter, and 'negotiations are more likely to succeed if military pressure is kept up' (Prime Minister).

16. Further action in the Security Council? We shall have to see. The immediate requirement is for Argentina to implement SCR 502.

UN Secretary-General's appeal

17. We should continue to draw on GJ's NPO of 27 April, on the Prime Minister's letter to Mr Foot, and on UKMIS New York telno 576, to explain that Mr Peres de Cuellar's appeal was a press release with no formal status; that Sir Anthony Parsons nonetheless reminded the Secretary-General that it was Argentina and not the UK which was in breach of SCR 502. On the general question of recourse to the UN, we should maintain the line that implementation of SCR 502 is the first requirement and that diplomatic action is focused on the need for a prompt Argentine response to Mr Haig's proposals.

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28 April 1982