



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Press Secretary

PRESS DIGEST FOR SUNDAY, MAY 2, 1982

FALKLANDS

Every newspaper dominated by raids on Port Stanley and Goose Green airfields; their successful outcome; the bombardment of the Falklands; and the loss of up to 3 Argentine aircraft: one British ship hit but not badly damaged.

Admiral Woodward sends radio message to Argentine Commander on Falklands telling him to surrender because he is surrounded; rejected with abuse.

Mail says Russia has cut off military intelligence to Argentine as part of political calculation

Mr Pym flies Concorde for meetings with Haig and UNSG

Sunday Times says it has been authoritatively confirmed that 24 members of the SAS have been on Falklands for 3 weeks.

IN ARGENTINE

Mail reports signs that the end is nigh for Galtieri; junta split Britons there attack bombing raid

Argentines tense, apprehensive, subdued - and not getting truth about military action

IN FALKLANDS

NoW says Argentine troops have been told cowards will hang; reports of damage to houses by troops using grenades, mortars.

IN UNITED KINGDOM

Most people in Britain not prepared to see a single Serviceman killed to regain Falklands, according to MORI poll in Sunday Times; 72% believe Government's long term policy should be determined by our interests, taking Islanders' views into account

Differing views about impact on this week's local elections - Sunday Times thinks Tories poised to win a stunning success; SDP seen to be losing out; others think Tories will avoid a drubbing because of patriotic voting.

MORI poll gives Tories a 13 point lead - 43; Labour 30; Alliance 25.

People leader says in voting electors should remember the Government's dismal home record; Sunday Times says votes should be determined by local authority performance

Telegraph says you routed Kee and Lindley on Panorama last week; but News of the World wants to know who imposed such a 50-minute strain on you

Adam Raphael, Observer, says Labour and the junta have combined to enable you to ride high but you would have been in great difficulty if the junta had had the sense to accept Haig's proposals

Gordon Leak, NoW, notes that Mr Foot attacked Mr Parkinson for taking tea with the junta (as Minister for Trade) but made no mention of Mr Parkinson's wining and dining with many Communist regimes in search of jobs for British workers.

John Knight feature in Mirror of your night out at Bedfordshire

COMMENT

People: Bombing was a military and diplomatic necessity; Argentines know that unless they get out peacefully they will be thrown out; but Mr Pym's visit to UN just as important as attack

Mirror: under heading Why Foot was right - attacks those who said Mr Foot was raising the white flag (he can't give a blank cheque when he doesn't know Government's plans); this was as indecent as the New Statesman cover which described you as a warmonger; the real warmonger is Galtieri; Woodrow Wyatt says although Reagan is partly off the fence he still wants the Argentines to be rewarded for their aggression because he fears the junta will be thrown out if they don't win something

Now: Noway back now; shooting war has started. Britain had no choice - bully boys of the junta had to be put in their place; Lord Soames in feature says Argentine is going to have to pull out but suggests 5 wise men to sort it out; USA should have been on our side earlier

Express: There are not much lower depths to which a politician can sink than Benn yesterday (he said a letter from a Marine officer reported that Servicemen did not want to fight - only joined Army to escape unemployment); George Gardiner says triumph is within our grasp and let there be no wavering now; he does not trust USA not to try to make us compromise

Mail: You have the Churchill touch - time of trial has brought forth the leader of the hour

Telegraph: Way is being cleared for a direct British assault if it is needed We don't want 502 to be tampered with in any way; military situation could get worse before it gets better but it will not get out of hand; it has been a good week for Britain; Peregrine Worsthorne says danger to West in recent years has not been trigger happy jingoism but defeatism - you have proved immune to pacifist virus; no inhibitions about use of force - that is why this week-end we feel a sense of relief and why the world seems a safer place

Observer: Britain's cause is just and we can afford restraint

S/Times: No one should be in any doubt about the high risks entailed in what we are doing although it has all gone our way so far, but we are running out of bloodless possibilities - a permanent solution will only be found by diplomacy

OTHER NEWS

Economy: Woodrow Wyatt says about one-third of public service cost could be cut because of waste without damaging services but not even you has enough drive to do anything about it

Big cut back in job centres being planned, and an end to PER

Local Authority: Express asks what are we to make of revelation that Islington Council pays foster mother of 5 £21,369 a year - crazy and monstrous squandering of public money and the case is unlikely to be unique

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Education: People says waste of talent shown by reducing number of working class children going to university is scandalous

Unions/Pay: 3 potentially serious disputes - NHS, rail and docks - could come to a head this week

Telegraph says doctors and dentists will get 6%; Civil Servants 5.9%

Observer says Militant Tendency close to gaining control of CPSA

Telegraph suggests that the existing pay factor of 4% will be cut to 2½% in next pay round

Express, on threatened rail strike, asks Weighell just what he thinks there is left to knock hell out of; can't he see that the consequences of another strike would inflict still more crippling damage of BR?

Industry: Ministers putting together a new low priced power package to save Invergordon

Peter Parker to consider whether to carry on this week in light of McCarthy report

Institute of Directors want an end to May and August Bank Holidays because they are disruptive

Labour Party NEC decided to ban lead in petrol

BAe and RR pressing Government for substantial funds to develop a £1.5b new fighter bomber

New York propertyman identified as De Lorean's backer

Law and Order: Football supporter stabbed to death after Arsenal match

News of the World suggests that Prince Charles should spearhead a national drive for racial harmony

Personal: Brian Walden article in Mail on the case of disappearing Sir Keith Joseph

International: 50,000 supporters of Solidarity march in Warsaw; another student demo tramples on Communist flags and calls for release of Walesna

B Ingham
2.5.82