

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

FALKLAND ISLANDS: 5 MAY

1. Following Mr Pym's visit to Washington and New York over the weekend, we are continuing our work with all urgency to achieve a negotiated settlement as soon as possible. Contacts continue both with the US and with the UN Secretary General. *We hope that these contacts may lead to early progress.*
2. Mr Pym said in the House of Commons yesterday 'We are working actively on various ideas, including those put forward by the President of Peru. I can assure the House that we are losing no time in developing our thoughts about them and communicating our own constructive views to those concerned.' As spokesman said late last night, Mr Pym sent a message to Mr Haig yesterday evening conveying just such a constructive response.

3. As you will know, Secretary Haig and Sir N Henderson spent ~~two~~ ^{three} hours together yesterday. ~~We are not without hope this morning~~

4. As Mr Pym said to the House yesterday, 'proposals are needed which cover the essential elements of Resolution 502 - withdrawal, and negotiations on the future unprejudiced in any way. They must also address the interim arrangements and the guarantees required.'

Secretary-General

5. As we explained at the time the Secretary-General outlined a number of suggestions and ideas to the Foreign Secretary when they dined together in New York on Sunday evening. Mr Perez de Cuellar asked for an early reaction. We have been in touch with him already and shall be in touch again.

Security Council Meeting?

6. Sir A Parsons called on Ambassador Ling Qing yesterday to ensure that the President of the Security Council was fully up to date with the British Government's views at the outset of any discussions with other Members of the Council. I understand that informal consultations continue in New York.

UK trying to block the Council?

7. No. But it is a widely held view at the UN that the timing of any such meeting needs to be considered most carefully. An exchange of public ~~initiatives~~ ^{positions at this stage} would be unlikely to help the peace process.

The Irish

8. On the Record: Comment on the Irish Statement? Irish initiative? Irish Defence Minister? - much better that I should not do so.

9. Unattributable: It is worth observing that

(a) ~~the~~ Defence Minister's views have been conspicuously not endorsed by the Taoiseach ^{or Seacht}

(b) the statement in Dublin called for an immediate meeting of the Security Council, but this is not in fact what the Irish asked for in New York.

(c) A ~~simple~~ call for immediate cessation of hostilities ^{not linked with withdrawal} - although no doubt inspired by noble sentiments - would leave the usurper in place and reward him for his aggression. This is inconsistent with SCR 502 (for which the Irish voted) and profoundly damaging to world order.

Community/Commonwealth Support

10. Of course there is concern at loss of life. There is concern in Britain too, led by the Government. (Mr Pym on 4 May expressed his 'deep regret at Argentine casualties'). But there is no hope of a negotiated settlement unless the pressures - political, economic and military - are maintained. The two go hand in hand, and this is fully understood by our Partners.

11. We have full confidence in Community solidarity.

12. Unattributable: The decision to adopt sanctions was not a nicely calculated economic decision, but an immediate political option in favour of solidarity. The reasons which prompted it are unchanged. We have no doubt that it will hold.

FALKLANDS: STATEMENT BY THE FOREIGN
AND COMMONWEALTH SECRETARY IN THE
HOUSE OF COMMONS ON 5 MAY

Mr Rt Hon Friend the Defence Secretary has just spoken about military aspects of the situation. I must however add my own tribute to the courage of the crew of HMS Sheffield and of the Harrier pilot and my sympathy to the families.

The military losses which have now occurred on both sides in this unhappy conflict emphasise all the more the urgent need to find a diplomatic solution.

The House will wish to know that since my return from the United States on Monday I have remained in the closest possible touch with Mr Haig.

As I reported to the House yesterday, we are working very actively on ideas put to us by Mr Haig, including some advanced by the President of Peru. Yesterday afternoon, after my statement, I sent a constructive contribution of our own to Mr Haig. He is taking this fully into account. I shall be in touch with him again later on today.

I want to tell the House that a vital ingredient of the ideas on which we are working is an early ceasefire and the prompt withdrawal of Argentine forces. I can assure the House that we are sparing no efforts in the search for an acceptable solution in line with the principles which we have stated on several occasions.

The points which were put to me in New York by the Secretary-General of the United Nations are also receiving our very careful attention. I have been in touch with Sr Perez de Cuellar about this since my return from New York and will continue to keep in close contact with him.

There are many points of similarity between the Secretary-General's thinking and the points we are pursuing with Mr Haig. Indeed, Sr Perez de Cuellar's helpful ideas seem certain to be reflected in the basis of any solution which we may be able to achieve.

I can assure the House that any obstructionism there may be will not come from our side. Although it is we who have been the victims of aggression, it is also we who are working tirelessly and constructively for a peaceful solution.