

9/31/F  
eR

Reference D/DS11/10/6/15  
D/DS11/10/6/16

CONFIDENTIAL

E13/1

PS/PUS

Copy to:  
AUS(D Staff)  
DS11 Duty Officer

BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR US CORRESPONDENTS

I attach a line which PUS might take on US assistance.

2. The statement is not very forthcoming. On US assistance, this is because the US still remain very nervous about making any details public. See Washington Tel No 1854 attached. Nonetheless, as predicted leaks are beginning to appear from US sources. See para 4 of Washington Tel No 1850 attached. I suggest that PUS should confirm that the US are being helpful, but only on a strictly unattributable basis.

22 May 1982

C B JENNINGS  
DS11

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WHAT ASSISTANCE HAS THE US OFFERED?

[Unattributable answer].

Primarily, the assistance what we have sought from the US merely involves the replenishment of existing stocks of equipment which we have purchased in the past from the United States. They are also providing some direct logistic assistance (KC 135 tankers) in the UK. We have no intention of requesting direct US military support in the Falklands area. The United States has responded sympathetically to our requests, as Secretary Haig promised on 30 April. We are most grateful for the efforts which have been made to accelerate delivery of equipment to us. Cannot go into details of what is involved, but it includes a range of equipment, logistic and other support.

In use in the MFD area.

IMMEDIATE 220030Z MAY 82

FROM COMNAVFOR LONDON TO MODUK CINCFLANT

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SIC AEA/ACN/19F  
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FM WASHINGTON 220030Z MAY 82  
TO IMMEDIATE FCO  
TELEGRAM NUMBER 1864 OF 22 MAY 82  
INFO IMMEDIATE UKNIS NEW YORK

FALKLANDS

1. HAIG TOLD ME THIS AFTERNOON THAT HE HAD JUST REPORTED THAT THE ARGENTINES IN RELATIONS WITH THE US. ONE PRETEXT BEING SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN AND THE DETAILED PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IT IN THE AMERICAN PRESS. HAIG SAID THAT IN THIS CONTEXT NEWSPAPER REPORTS SUCH AS THAT WHICH APPEARED IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES (NY TELNO 1840) - WHICH OF COURSE CAME FROM US SOURCES - WERE MOST UNHELPFUL. HE HOPED WE WOULD CONTINUE TO AVOID MAKING PUBLIC DETAILS OF THE SUPPORT WE WERE GETTING. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY (SEE MIFT)

HENDERSON

BT

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DS 11 Copy to:-

es/pus

Head of DS 8

DS 5 (Miss Aldred)

DS 6 (Mr Jackson)

c.b. 22/5

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2210

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B  
H

CXL072 22/0430 14200579

FOR CXX

IMMEDIATE 220030Z MAY 82

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON  
TO MODUK  
CINCFLEET

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FM WASHINGTON 220030Z MAY 82

TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1854 OF 22 MAY 1982

INFO IMMEDIATE UKNIS NEW YORK

FALKLANDS

1. HAIG TOLD ME THIS AFTERNOON THAT THE US EMBASSY IN BUENOS AIRES HAD JUST REPORTED THAT THE ARGENTINES WERE TALKING OF BREAKING OFF RELATIONS WITH THE US. ONE PRETEXT BEING ADVANCED WAS US MATERIEL SUPPORT FOR BRITAIN AND THE DETAILED PUBLICITY GIVEN TO IT IN THE AMERICAN PRESS. HAIG SAID THAT IN THIS CONTEXT NEWSPAPER REPORTS SUCH AS THAT WHICH APPEARED IN TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES (NY TELNO 1840) - WHICH OF COURSE CAME FROM US SOURCES - WERE MOST UNHELPFUL. HE HOPED WE WOULD CONTINUE TO AVOID MAKING PUBLIC DETAILS OF THE SUPPORT WE WERE GETTING. HE ALSO REFERRED TO THE STATEMENT ISSUED BY THE WHITE HOUSE TODAY (SEE MIFT).

HENDERSON

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FOR CXK

DS20 (miss long)

ROUTINE 211730Z MAY 82

cb? 22/5

FROM COMMCEN FCO LONDON  
TO MODUK

PUS  
mark  
DUS (P)  
Aus (DS) (copy)  
Hd DS11  
DS1100  
DS11

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FM WASHINGTON 211730Z MAY 82

TO PRIORITY FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 1840 OF 21 MAY 82

INFO UKMIS NEW YORK, BIS NEW YORK

FALKLANDS: US PRESS

1. PRESS LEAD WITH THE PRIME MINISTER'S DESCRIPTION OF OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION, REPRESENTING THE LIMITS TO WHICH THE GOVERNMENT BELIEVED IT RIGHT TO GO: AND HER STATEMENT THAT SINCE THESE PROPOSALS HAD BEEN REJECTED THEY WERE NO LONGER ON THE TABLE THE PAPERS NOTE THAT HMGS PROPOSALS WERE SUPPORTED BY ALL PARTIES IN THE HOUSE OF COMMONS AND THAT THE OPPOSITION SUPPORTED THE USE OF FORCE IF THEY WERE NOT ACCEPTED, WHILE ARGUING THAT EFFORTS SHOULD

STILL BE MADE TO KEEP NEGOTIATING CHANNELS OPEN.

2. THE OTHER LEAD ITEM IS THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S CONCLUSION THAT HIS NEGOTIATING INITIATIVE HAS AT AN END. THE NEW YORK TIMES AND THE WASHINGTON POST IDENTIFY THE MAIN POINTS OF DIFFICULTY AS ARGENTINE INSISTENCE ON THE WINNING OF SOVEREIGNTY IN DUE COURSE: OUR DETERMINATION TO ENSURE THAT THE ISLANDERS WERE ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTERIM ADMINISTRATION AND THAT ACCOUNT WAS TAKEN OF THEIR WISHES: AND THE ARGUMENT OVER THE INCLUSION OF THE DEPENDENCIES. THE GENERAL CONCLUSION DRAWN IS THAT MATTERS WILL NOW BE DECIDED BY MILITARY ACTION OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS.

3. A REPORT FROM BUENOS AIRES IN THE WASHINGTON POST QUOTES ARGENTINE OFFICIALS AS STATING THAT THE TWO SIDES REMAINED ALMOST AS FAR APART AS AT THE BEGINNING OF THE CRISIS: THAT ARGENTINA NEVER MODIFIED ITS POSITION THAT ANY AGREEMENT HAD TO LEAD AT LEAST IMPLICITLY TO ARGENTINE SOVEREIGNTY AND HAD PROPOSED THAT NO PROVISION SHOULD BE MADE FOR GOVERNING THE ISLANDS AFTER 31 DECEMBER THIS YEAR AS ARGENTINA HAD INTENDED TO TAKE OVER THE ISLANDS ONCE AGAIN IF THERE WERE NO AGREEMENT BY THAT DATE. THIS POSITION IS JUSTIFIED BY THE SUPPOSED NEED TO QUOTE FORCE THE BRITISH TO NEGOTIATE . . . . UNDER THEIR PROPOSAL THEY COULD HAVE KEPT ON NEGOTIATING FOR ANOTHER 150 YEARS UNQUOTE.

4. THE NEW YORK TIMES QUOTING ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS GIVES A CIRCUMSTANTIAL ACCOUNT OF THE MATERIAL ASSISTANCE BEING PROVIDED

UNCLASSIFIED

THE UNITED STATES. THE US IS SAID TO BE MAKING AVAILABLE SEVERAL AERIAL TANKERS FOR OPERATIONS IN THE NORTH ATLANTIC, TO COMPENSATE FOR THE VICTORS REQUIRED TO REFUEL VULCANS AND HINRODS AT ASCENSION ISLAND. THE US IS ALSO FURNISHING INFORMATION ON WEAPONS SOLD TO ARGENTINA AND HAS EARMARKED FOR TRANSFER TO BRITAIN SURFACE TO AIR MISSILES AND RADAR FOR USE BY BRITISH FORCES ON THE FALKLANDS. THE ITEMS WERE IDENTIFIED FOR RAPID SHIPMENT TO ASCENSION ISLAND WHERE THEY COULD BE TRANSFERRED TO THE TASK FORCE. THE CONTINGENCY LIST ALSO INCLUDES ENGINEERING EQUIPMENT, HEATERS, GENERATORS, AMMUNITION AND PORTABLE TANKS TO FUEL HARRIERS.

5. AN EDITORIAL IN YESTERDAYS BALTIMORE SUN DEPLORES THE NATIONALISM BEING DISPLAYED BY BOTH COUNTRIES: MOST PARS ARE STUPID AND UNJUSTIFIED, AND THE FALKLANDS STRUGGLE MORE THAN MOST. EDITORIALS TODAY IN THE WASHINGTON POST AND BALTIMORE SUN COMMENT ON THE RELUCTANT AND PARTIAL RENEWAL OF EC SANCTIONS (THE POST CRITICISES THIS AS A REMARKABLY UNHELPFUL GESTURE WHICH, IF INTENDED TO DISSUADE BRITAIN FROM FURTHER ACTION WILL ALSO HAVE BEEN A FAILURE), THE FAILURE TO AGREE A BUDGET REBATE AND THE MAJORITY VOTE ON FARM PRICES.

HENDERSON  
BT

FALKLANDS PUBLIC PRESENTATION

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