

CONFIDENTIAL

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May at 1800 Tuesday 1 June
Wednesday

FALKLAND ISLANDS:
THE CHANCELLOR OF THE DUCHY OF LANCASTER'S
GROUP ON PUBLICITY

Note of a meeting held in the Privy Council Office
at 6.00 pm on Monday 24 May 1982

Present: Rt Hon Cecil Parkinson MP	Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster and Paymaster General
Sir Frank Cooper	Ministry of Defence
R L Wade-Gery) D Colvin)	Cabinet Office
Lord Nicholas Gordon Lennox) K McInnes)	Foreign and Commonwealth Office
S W J Fuller) R P Hatfield)	South Atlantic Presentation Unit
H H Mills	Chancellor of the Duchy's Office

1. It was suggested that Janet Whiting (FCO) might be invited to attend meetings of the Group.
2. The members of the group confirmed that, by and large, no particular problems had been encountered in the previous week. There had been some representations from United States correspondents that they had been actively misled on 21 May to believe that the raids taking place in the Falkland Islands were not a major invasion. It was noted that the briefing was not false in that raids did take place on the night of the invasion and that this briefing had been overtaken by the news of an invasion leaking out on the American side of the Atlantic. In any event, the use of a presentation plan to conceal the fact that an invasion was taking place was common military practice.
3. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster asked about the briefing arrangements for TV and radio programmes. It was pointed out that the press line for the day was discussed at Mr Ingham's 10.00 am meeting, a note of which was circulated. An officer from No 10 Press Office or the Presentation Unit could provide additional material as necessary.

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4. The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster said that he would like to know of any requests for Mr Whitelaw to appear on
1. TV or radio.
- of Commons and an update on the case covered in the
5. The next meeting was arranged for ~~Tuesday~~ ^{WEDNESDAY 2} 1 June at 6.00 pm in the Chancellor of the Duchy's Office. by reports of the

buildup of the British beachhead and continuing flow of ships, supplies and units to the Falkland area.

HHM

27 May 1982

2. Other news items covered world events such as the Pope's visits to both UK and Argentina, UN peace efforts and the war between Iraq and Iran.

SPECIAL FEATURES

3. These included:

- a. A report on the military situation which mentioned the prisoners recently taken, the feelings of the islanders towards the occupying troops and gave further details on reinforcements arriving.
- b. Three letters to the Daily Telegraph were quoted in full.
- c. To reinforce the news bulletin a transcript of Mr. Nott's speech to the House of Commons was broadcast.
- d. Argentine reaction to the Pope's proposed visit to UK.
- e. A follow up on the attrition rate to the Argentine Air Force.
- f. International Press report following the usual round-up of world opinion.