

NOTE TO PRESS OFFICERS

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No. 10

FALKLAND ISLANDS: 28 MAY

Repossession of the Islands

1. The British position was made unequivocally clear by the Prime Minister in the House of Commons and by the Foreign ~~Minister~~^{Secretary} on 'TV Eye'.

2. Prime Minister. House of Commons. 27 May:

'The objective of sending British forces and of trying to retake by force what was taken from us by force is first repossession, second restoration of British administration, third reconstruction followed by consultation with the Islanders.'

Secretary of State. 'TV Eye'. 27 May:

'What I think is going to happen now...is that we will repossess the Islands and then, under a British administration, there will be this period of rehabilitation and reconsideration for the future, and all the time we shall have in our minds what is going to be in the interests of the Islanders and what they themselves prefer.'

Prime Minister. House of Commons. 27 May:

'Unequivocal withdrawal of Argentine forces in accordance with Resolution 502 as a condition for a ceasefire.'

Secretary of State. 'TV Eye'. 27 May;

'We are there to repossess the Islands. The whole strategy has been designed to persuade the Argentines to withdraw... if they will change their minds, they will withdraw and they will conform with Resolution 502, then we are in a different

/situation

situation...what we are trying to do is to get a ceasefire coupled with withdrawal, to get the Argentines off the Islands. If they won't go by peaceful means...then we are going to repossess them by force.'

Future of the Islands

Here, too, both Ministers made the position clear.

3. In explaining to Dr David Owen that the British proposals for an interim arrangement were not appropriate for the longer term, the Prime Minister referred to reconstruction of life on the Islands and consultations with the Islanders. She went on 'That will obviously depend in some measure on what other nations are prepared to do, how much they are prepared to invest, how much they are prepared to develop and, of course, on what arrangements can be procured for the long term security of the Islands.'

4. The Foreign Secretary too spoke of reconstruction and consultation and went on 'We have got to think very carefully about their security...we have got to think of the economic development of the Islands...all these matters have got to be thought about with them and I think that will take some time.'

The Longer Term

5. The Prime Minister was not asked about the longer term. Pressed on this subject, Mr Pym replied:

^{Our position is}
'~~Repossession~~ is that we won't close any door to any future possibility but let's take their wishes fully into account...the best future for the Falkland Islanders will be if there is peace and stability and friendship in the whole region...so what one would hope to see at the end of it all, despite what Argentina did, is that there can be friendships rebuilt and stability and peace. Q. And that means negotiation? A. Eventually, of course. In the end there has to be a negotiation.'

ted Nations

We welcome the unanimous adoption of SCR 505 and shall cooperate fully with the Secretary General in his renewed mission. Sir A Parsons conveyed to the Secretary General on 27 May, on instructions, the British response to his initial enquiry. We now await the parallel Argentine response. On leaving his meeting with the Secretary General, Sir A Parsons said that he had made a number of points in reply to him; that we were still in business; and that he was following a similar procedure to the previous talks by holding meetings alternately with him and with the Argentine representative.

7. The importance of SCR 505 is that it puts in place a diplomatic mechanism for use when the Argentines are ready to implement SCR 502. Negotiations to facilitate that are possible at any time.

Arms Supplies

8. Prime Minister. House of Commons. 27 May:

'There would appear to be very active efforts on behalf of the Argentines to secure future supplies of missiles and spares and various armaments in various parts of the world. We have obviously been in touch with the nations themselves about this and their political heads but...it would seem that supplies may be reaching Argentina... through third parties.'

9. We are indeed concerned about this and are actively following up all the evidence available to us. It is not sensible to discuss particular cases in public.

10. South Africa? Draw on Guidance 109 attached.

11. Israel? We have received careful precise assurances.

12. Ecuadorian aircraft detained at New York? The Americans took all proper action to satisfy themselves that the cargo was not destined for Argentina.

/13. Luxair?

13. Luxair? We have taken this up with the Luxembourg authorities and are fully satisfied with their helpful response.

14. Peru? The MOD will tell you that all captured pilots are Argentine citizens. We have no evidence to support the story that Peruvian personnel are involved.