

Secretary of Programmes 37/38 - 10/11 June 82

News

1. The main items which were included in the broadcasts were:
  - a. Mr Notts statement to the House of Commons
  - b. The return of Lt Cdr ASTIZ to Argentina
  - c. The release of the Vulcan bomber by the Brazilian government
  - d. The NATO summit meeting and Mrs Thatcher's appreciation of the support given by our Allies over the Falklands crisis
  - e. The Nepalese reply to Argentina over the use of Gurkhas in the Falklands
  - f. The Pope's departure en route to Argentina
  - g. Situation report on the Lebanon situation
  - h. The return of the Argentinian soccer player Ricardo Villa to Buenos Aires
  - j. Weather

Features

2. The principal features were:
  - a. Political situation
  - b. News from Buenos Aires
  - c. The Pope's visit to Argentina highlighting the fact that he will meet the Junta but not many of the ordinary people, and the various demonstrations and protests planned during his stay
  - d. A feature entitled 'the Argentine economy in ruins' based on article from the 'CLARIN'
  - e. The burials of the Argentine dead at Goose Green
  - f. A feature entitled 'Medieval siege' based on Morris Thompson's article in the Guardian
  - g. World cup roundup

Reception/Feedback

3. The station continues to attract widespread attention from radio enthusiasts around the world. A recent batch of listeners letters included items from the USA (3), Brasil (2) the Seychelles, Chile, New Zealand, Canada, Colombia, Finland and the UK.
4. The BBC Jamming Report for May gave the following information: "The first of these special broadcasts began wef 2300 GMT on 19 May 82. As monitored at Caversham 'buzz' type jamming started up on the only frequency carrying this transmission, 9710 Khz, at 0100 GMT on 20 May and has continued each day thereafter throughout the whole of the 2300-0200 GMT transmission period.



Daily jamming of the transmission is confirmed by FBIS Asuncion although they report the broadcast is still heard in Paraguay at fair merit in spite of the interference.

The second MOD broadcast (0830-0930 GMT) began on 28 May 1982 on a frequency of 9700 kHz. To date it is reported clear of jamming interference in Asuncion where it is well received.

PUS held the sixth in his series of meetings with Editors on media coverage of the Falklands emergency at 6.30pm on Wednesday, 9 June. A list of those who attended is attached at Annex 1.

2. The Editors raised a number of practical problems they were encountering:

a. They did not know the whereabouts of their correspondents. PUS said that all 23 were now ashore with either 3 Commando Brigade or 5 Infantry Brigade, but MOD would not expect to know exactly where they were on a day-to-day basis since they would obviously move about with the units to which they were attached.

b. Certain correspondents, particularly Rex Hastings, appeared to be filing a great deal more material than others. PUS said that access would vary depending on the units to which correspondents were attached. MOD had not asked for special treatment for any correspondents; since Hastings was filing mainly background articles rather than current reports, he was probably able to get access to communications facilities at quiet periods more readily than other correspondents.

c. Delays in MOD's clearing tapes and forwarding pooled material. CPR said there were occasionally problems when the Duty Officer needed to consult operational staffs on a point about which he was uncertain, but generally we were clearing tapes within a few hours. As for pooled material, there seemed to be problems in transmission to some newspapers (particularly The Times) but generally the system seemed to be working well (comment - most Editors seemed to agree).

3. On pictures, PUS said that there was now a steady flow of still pictures being sent over the facsimile machines with the Task Force. No solution had been found to the problem of transmitting TV film direct from the South Atlantic. The position would probably improve once the Islands had been repossessed; discussions were already taking place with BBC and ITV about the possible use of satellite facilities and it might also be possible to fly film out to Latin American countries for transmission from there.

4. Several Editors raised questions over censorship, including:

a. Were pictures being censored? They were surprised that none had been received showing the devastation and casualties following the battle at Goose Green and Darwin. CPR said that no instructions had been sent to the Task Force for any category of pictures to be withheld. All those received in MOD from press photographers had been forwarded, but MOD had held up two by Service photographers.

b. Why was MOD placing brackets around certain passages in written copy they forwarded, associating it with requests that the material should not be used? PUS said that MOD had no power