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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DPR/318/3

PS/PUS

MEETING WITH EDITORS - 16 JUNE 1982

1. Before departing on leave CPR discussed the advice to be given to PUS in respect of a further meeting with editors now arranged for 1800 hours today. The matters for discussion in this somewhat uncomfortable transition period could include:

a. Pooling. The current arrangements for pooling of copy have for the most part worked well. However, we can expect that support for this arrangement will not be sustained for long with current pressure for the restoration of normal business coming from those who were fortunate enough to have their correspondents with the Task Force. Since the timing of the changeover from one system to another is likely to be a sensitive issue it is recommended that PUS asks the Editors if they wish to continue the pooling arrangements pro-tem and, when they envisage a change of system.

b. "Censorship". PUS will wish to give an assurance that the so-called second "censorship" has now ceased. However, until we are satisfied that hostilities in the area have ceased some constraint will have to be exercised in reporting of our forces' activities and positions. Furthermore, it is reasonable to expect that it will be some considerable time before complete freedom to report is likely. We will have to safeguard many military dispositions, for example, missile battery locations and ammunition dumps, and other sensitive matters.

c. Communications. It could be beneficial to all concerned to remind the editors that the surrender is not likely to improve significantly the communication facilities in the Falklands. We need helicopters to support our own forces, safeguard prisoners and help to restore normal life to the civil community. Radio channels will be required for military and administrative use and contingencies.

d. TV Facilities. The provision of comprehensive TV facilities has a broad political dimension and is perhaps a matter which will involve to some considerable degree the FCO. It is recommended that a special meeting be convened to discuss the aspect of coverage.

d. Immediate Facilities. PUS will wish to outline the developments in the provision of facilities for a limited number of selected foreign and United Kingdom press to visit Port Stanley.

16 JUN 1982

81856

e. Repatriation of Correspondents. At present we have no facilities for the repatriation of correspondents serving with the Task Force. It would however be useful to ask Editors if they would like to bring their correspondents back, do they wish to have them replaced and, in an ideal world, when?

f. Press Centre. The early indications are that the Press Centre activity is declining. In the not too distant future we would expect the demand to fall off to a degree where closure is a sensible course of action. It would however be prudent to allow this facility to "wither on the vine" for a day or so. Nevertheless, PUS may wish to suggest to editors that closure sometime around the weekend is possible.

- b. GARDI's tour of Port Stanley.
- c. Reaction in Buenos Aires.
- d. BBC considering lifting the ban on Argentine goods.
- e. Pope's address to the ILO in Geneva.
- f. US military aid for El Salvador.

R A MILLER
Air Cdre
DPR(RAF)

16 June 1982

Principal features were:

- a. Military situation.
- b. Transcript of the report by Max Hastings on entering Port Stanley.
- c. World reaction to the Argentine surrender.
- d. Lessons from the war for Argentina.
- e. Falklands Islands economic opportunities, based on an article by Patrick Cosgrove.

Reception/Feedback

A cassette recording of an earlier broadcast has been received from a listener in Uruguay which confirms good reception in that area and the ineffectiveness of Argentine jamming.

Copy passed to Hd 656/RAUS (GS)