

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

April 2, 1982

The Briefing Room

INDEX

<u>SUBJECT</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
ANNOUNCEMENTS	
President's schedule.....	1
Radio address.....	1
Jamaica/Barbados trip.....	1-2
FALKLAND ISLANDS	
Argentine invasion.....	2-8
ECONOMY	
Unemployment.....	8-10

THE WHITE HOUSE
Office of the Press Secretary

PRESS BRIEFING
BY
LARRY SPEAKES

April 2, 1982

The Briefing Room

12:41 P.M. EST

MR. SPEAKES: The President's having lunch with Senator Laxalt on the patio behind the Oval Office on a nice spring day. One thirty, he's signing H.R. 4482, Federal Courts Improvement Act of 1982 in the Roosevelt Room.

One forty-five, the U.S./Canada International Joint Commission will be in the Roosevelt Room to be photographed with the President.

This afternoon at 2:00 there'll be a background briefing concerning the Executive Order on Classification. We hope to make the materials available in this briefing room at 1:00 for you to study but embargoed until after the briefing.

Tomorrow, the President's radio address will take place at 12:06 from the Oval Office. We will not have an advanced text of it, but we'll have a transcript fairly quickly. And the coverage will be photo op after the President's remarks, and we'll have a mult in the Oval Office if there's any sound that television wishes to pick up.

Q Does he intend to sit in front of a microphone when he does this radio address?

MR. SPEAKES: I told you he's trying to see if your hearing was going again.

Q No, I mean, you'll make certain he sits in front of the microphone this time.

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, we might.

Q Okay.

Q Is this going to be the format he's going to use in all of them or are you not going to have texts in any case, or do you know?

MR. SPEAKES: Sometime we might. Sometime we might not.

Q That's not very helpful. Thank you very much.

MR. SPEAKES: It'll be piped in here and available on the mult in here.

Q Thank you for your general views. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: How is it general?

The Jamaica/Barbados briefing books are now available in the press for those press only who are travelling with the President. See Mr. Robin Gray for your copy.

The rough outline of the schedule for the trip -- the departure is mid-morning on Wednesday and an early afternoon arrival --

Q Will you slow down?

MR. SPEAKES: -- in Kingston. Got it?

Q Will you slow down?

MR. SPEAKES: Back when I was a reporter a reporter use to take notes --

Q Well, you're --

MR. SPEAKES: -- and write fast.

Q He's not the only one --

MR. SPEAKES: Wednesday afternoon, call on the Governor General in a meeting with Prime Minister Seaga.

Q Well, it's in the book. It's really important to read.

MR. SPEAKES: Wednesday evening -- is it in the book? It's not in the book.

Q No. The schedule's in the book.

MR. SPEAKES: You read the book and hadn't read the book.

Wednesday evening, State Dinner; Thursday afternoon meeting with heads of state of the eastern Caribbean nations; working lunch with heads of state of the eastern Caribbean nations; Thursday evening, call on the Governor General; meeting with Prime Minister Adams of Barbados. Friday's free. Saturday is free except for the radio address; Sunday attends church service and comes home.

Q -- Presbyterian service.

MR. SPEAKES: Statement on the --

Q Presbyterian service.

MR. SPEAKES: -- situation regarding the Falklands Islands -- our situation report indicates the Argentine government now claims to have occupied the Falklands Islands and such others as the South Georgians and the South Shetlands.

British government acknowledges that an invasion has taken place, but we have no information other than conflicting reports on fighting or casualties.

We have made clear to the --

Q Could you slow down please?

Q Not that much. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: -- to the government of Argentina --

Q Could you start that again? We have made what?

Q -- clear --

MR. SPEAKES: -- clear. How does the State Department reporters get these things down when they read them?

Q They do it on camera.

Q They're faster.

Q They're allowed to report --

Q They're lots -- the reporters are a lot smarter over there.

MR. SPEAKES: You got it.

We have made clear to the Argentine government that we deplore the use of force to resolve this dispute.

Q That's telling 'em.

MR. SPEAKES: You can tell it's Friday.

We have called on Argentina to cease immediately hostilities and to withdraw its military forces from the Falkland Islands.

Q Can you go over that sentence again?

MR. SPEAKES: We have called on Argentina --

Q Slow down a little. (Laughter.)

Q No, go ahead -- immediately --

MR. SPEAKES: -- to cease immediately hostilities and to withdraw its military forces from the Falkland Islands.

Q How do you spell Falkland?

Q How about the South Georgians and the Shetlands -- South Shetlands?

MR. SPEAKES: That's where Carter lived.

Q What about the ponytails?

Q But we want them to withdraw their forces from all the islands?

MR. SPEAKES: It would be nice.

Q Okay. (Laughter.)

MR. SPEAKES: We are continuing to work bilaterally --

Q I take back what I said about you.

MR. SPEAKES: -- and in multilateral forums.

MR. ALLIN: Fora.

MR. SPEAKES: Either is acceptable. --

MORE

#299-4/2

such as the United Nations, to obtain a cessation of hostilities and a withdrawal.

Were you able to hear, Terry?

Q I didn't get that. What was that?

MR. SPEAKES: Plante will give it to you -- (laughter.)

Q Please.

MR. SPEAKES: You get it, Maureen? You can cover it to Terry. She got it back there.

Because of our concern over the tensions between Argentina and the United Kingdom, the United States Government welcomes and strongly supports the statement by the President of the U.N. Security Council made yesterday on behalf of the Council.

We fully endorse the Council's call for the exercise of utmost restraint at this time, the avoidance of the use or threat of force in the region, and for the continuation of the search for a diplomatic solution.

Q Was this released at State?

Q When did the President learn of this, Larry? Have you finished the sentence?

MR. SPEAKES: I did. When did the President learn of the action --

Q Of the invasion or the action, whatever it is.

MR. SPEAKES: -- invasion? Shortly after 7 o'clock this morning he was informed.

Q Who told him?

MR. SPEAKES: Bill Clark. And --

Q Did he call last night?

MR. SPEAKES: And he's received a continual update through the morning.

Q Larry, the President said outside that he tried to persuade the Argentines not to go ahead. Is he now in contact with Mrs. Thatcher trying to persuade her not to take any military action in response to this?

MR. SPEAKES: Ralph, I wouldn't want to answer that specifically. We are, as I said earlier, in contact with the British Government through diplomatic channels at the level of the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister and others, but as far as what our specific diplomatic exchanges are, I'd rather not --

Q Has he called or does he plan to call Mrs. Thatcher too?

MR. SPEAKES: He has not called her. We have been dealing through our usual diplomatic channels, but he has through those channels had direct communication with her.

Q Larry, how long before the invasion did you suspect it might happen?

MR. SPEAKES: Oh, it's hard to say.

Q 140 years.

MR. SPEAKES: 147 years.

Q Forty-nine.

MR. SPEAKES: I don't know. It's hard to say what we suspected and when we suspected it.

Q When was it brought to his attention?

MR. SPEAKES: The matter? We've been dealing with it over a period of weeks and we've been discussing it through our diplomatic channels over a period of weeks. The President was aware of it over the last several days. Of course, he dealt with it directly last night.

Q Larry, I think you went through the events of last night and this morning and I just -- would you mind doing that again for the benefit of --

MR. SPEAKES: At 8:21 he placed a call to the President of Argentina. They spoke with the assistance of interpreters for 50 minutes, concluding at 9:14. The President appealed to the President of Argentina to avoid the use of force and seek a peaceful solution.

Q The President of Argentina obviously told him that that wasn't possible or -- they could do with his appeal.

MR. SPEAKES: I think we'll just not go any further than that.

Q Can you give us any fill on what particularly prompted the call? Why he decided it would be a good idea to do this -- directly?

MR. SPEAKES: I take it -- yes, I think it was our concern over the matter and our hope that we could avoid, could assist in avoiding violence in that area.

Q Can you tell us anything about the response from the Argentine leaders?

Q What is the situation --

MR. SPEAKES: Pardon?

Q Can you characterize what was the response that the President of Argentina made to him?

MR. SPEAKES: I don't think I should. No.

Q Is there anything you can tell us about it?

MR. SPEAKES: Not really, Lou. It just shouldn't be my business to characterize his response, I don't think.

Q Do we have any trade or other relationship with Argentina which may be cut off, used, curtailed?

MR. SPEAKES: I'm not aware of any plans to take any steps of those types.

Q Will we discontinue our backing for their paramilitary force in Honduras, training of people --

MR. SPEAKES: What paramilitary force?

Q -- to overthrow the Government of Nicaragua?

Q What is the political set-up of Argentina now?

Q -- call the Argentinian Embassy.