



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

Falklands

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HIGHLIGHTS OF APRIL 6
TV NEWSCASTS AND PROGRAMS

ABC WORLD NEWS TONIGHT

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1. FALKLAND ISLANDS - Today a mounting threat to the survival of Prime Minister Thatcher's government over the still long-range face off between Great Britain and Argentina. And here in Washington, growing concern that there may in fact be shooting before a peaceful settlement is reached. (Frank Reynolds)

In London, Prime Minister Thatcher has announced a ban on all Argentinian imports. If Argentina reciprocates, it will hurt more in London than it will in Buenos Aires. (Peter Jennings)

Prime Minister Thatcher's cabinet met today to discuss what the British fleet should do once it gets to the Falklands and what diplomatic steps were in order in the meantime. The meeting took place amid a growing controversy that could topple this government. British newspapers reported this morning that the Foreign Office knew of the Argentine invasion plan days before it occurred and did nothing about it. After the meeting Mrs. Thatcher went to Parliament where opposition MPs were waiting to question her on the reports. In a noisy session, she led off with a defiant refusal to resign over the Falkland crisis. Mrs. Thatcher also expressed the hope that President Reagan, whom she referred to as the leader of the most powerful defender of liberty in the world, would be successful in mediating the crisis to a peaceful solution. (Al Dale, London)

2. AERIAL RECONNAISSANCE OF FALKLANDS- Despite denials by Prime Minister Thatcher, U.S. intelligence sources tell ABC News that at least a week before Argentine forces invaded the Falklands, the British secretly asked the U.S. to overfly the region in a spy plane. The request was granted and the aerial reconnaissance was shared. The plane was an SR-71 which is still making daily passes over the Falklands and the coast of Argentina. It takes both high altitude reconnaissance photographs and intercepts radio communications. U.S. intelligence sources confirm that vital information from these flights have been shared with the British every step of the way. This, despite a continuing refrain from the American government which was echoed again today by Pentagon spokesman Henry Catto: "We have no idea of doing anything but walking right down the middle." Catto also admitted that the U.S. will allow British aircraft to land and refuel on the Atlantic Island of Ascension. It is a British controlled island with an American-run airfield on it. Ascension is some 3500 miles from the Falklands. Nonetheless, it could prove enormously helpful to the British who could then begin flying their own long-range reconnaissance flights as the British fleets steam closer to conflict. (John McWehty)

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3. IN BUENOS AIRES - There was little sign of conciliation here in Argentina among top government officials today. The Acting Foreign Minister said: "We've been wanting to negotiating for 150 years and we are still going to negotiate, but we're not willing to give up the island. We are going to stay forever." Diplomats here say that as of now they see no way out of this crisis. The suggestion, they say, that a multinational force could replace Argentinian troops on the island would appear to the Argentinians to be a withdrawal. While Argentina says it is willing to negotiate the crisis, it won't talk about the sovereignty of the island--the very reason why the British fleet is heading this way. (James Walker)

4. IN WASHINGTON - Secretary of State Haig held separate meetings today with the Ambassadors to Britain and Argentina. Neither man had much to say after the meetings, and State Department officials insist that Haig did not offer any new American proposals for resolving the conflict.

However, Diplomatic Correspondent, Barrie Dunsmore reports tonight that high officials at the State Department fear there may indeed be some shooting before a settlement is reached. (Frank Reynolds)

5. HAIG SPEECH - Secretary of State Haig said today a freeze of nuclear weapons at present levels would be a leap into the unknown with possibly catastrophic consequences. Haig also insisted this country cannot risk a policy that would rule out the first use of nuclear weapons. A pledge not to strike first, he said, would leave the West nothing with which to counterbalance Soviet conventional warfare advantages. (Frank Reynolds)

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

1. IN LONDON - British Prime Minister Thatcher refused to resign today telling her opponents she would press ahead with plans to recapture the Falkland Islands from Argentina. And she denied newspaper reports that the British Government knew of Argentine invasion plans 10 days before the takeover. (Tom Brokaw)

Prime Minister Thatcher stepped up economic sanctions against Argentina and made a formal request to the Common Market to do the same. Four Western European countries have already stopped selling weapons to Argentina. Most members of Parliament agree with national polls in which people support Mrs. Thatcher's quiet, British way of dealing with the crisis. But that wasn't good enough for some members of the Labour Party who today demanded her resignation. In fact, Labour doesn't have the votes to force her out. Diplomatic efforts go on but so far with no sign of a breakthrough. Here at the Foreign Office there is deep concern that American eagerness to find a solution may produce a formula which would compromise the British commitment to resist aggression and to regain the Falklands. American sources here say those fears

are without foundation. And should diplomacy fail, say those sources, the U.S. is unlikely to wave a red flag at the British fleet. (Steve Delaney)

2. IN BUENOS AIRES - Argentina is continuing to buildup its occupation forces and it is promising the British citizens that they will enjoy the same freedoms they had before the occupation. The Minister of Interior said Argentina is studying President Reagan's offer to act as an intermediary, but he said Argentina is not willing to make any major concessions. Even though the Argentine generals are quick to say that they are prepared for war, many of the Argentine people are not. Many observers feel that when the British fleet is only a few days away, the Argentine people may display a more moderate tone. (Robin Lloyd)
3. AMERICANS IN FALKLANDS - It turns out that there are 28 Americans on the Falkland Islands and an American official is expected to go to the town of Stanley to check on their condition. (Tom Brokaw)
4. FALKLAND NEGOTIATIONS - Administration sources have told White House correspondent John Palmer that both Britain and Argentina have signalled acceptance of President Reagan's offer for the U.S. to mediate the Falkland dispute. Reportedly the negotiations actually began today with the arrival at the State Department of both the Argentine and British Ambassadors. They both met separately today with Secretary of State Haig. (Roger Mudd)
5. MILITARY STRATEGY - There is no question that the Argentine navy would be out-gunned in a battle for the Falkland Islands. But the British have potential problems. They would be fighting 8,000 miles away from home while the Argentines would be only a few hundred miles off their mainland. Some naval experts believe the British would be hard pressed to sustain any long-term operation across the Atlantic. Another advantage for the Argentines is that their planes have a range of 700 miles, some of them could be moved to the Falklands for additional cover. The British Navy's Harrier jump-jets have a range of only 100 miles, so the Argentines could attack the British task force before the British could launch their own airstrike. Some analysts believe that the best tactic for the British would be to cut off the islands from the mainland--perhaps a naval blockade or the mining of Argentine harbors. Britain has underwater superiority with its modern submarines. British officials say it will take two to three weeks for the task force to reach the Falklands. Given the difficulties they may have taking and then holding the islands, the British do not seem to be moving at full speed. (George Lewis)

6. NUCLEAR FREEZE - The Reagan Administration is trying to stay one step ahead of the growing nuclear freeze movement. Yesterday, the President referred further questions on his policy to Alexander Haig. Today Mr. Haig not only gave the Administration's response to the freeze, but strongly supported a buildup of nuclear forces. (Roger Mudd)

Secretary Haig engaged in a preemptive strike advancing to today the Administration's first comprehensive policy statement on nuclear weapons. Why? Because in this room tomorrow a quartet of establishment experts on the subject--Robert McNamara, George Kennan, McGeorge Bundy, and Gerrard Smith--is set to propose that both superpowers agree not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. Haig, mentioning no names, flatly rejected that idea, pointing out the costs as he sees them: "Those in the West who advocate the adoption of 'no first use policy' seldom go on to propose that the U.S. reintroduce the draft, triple the size of its armed forces, and put its economy on a wartime footing." Haig was no more generous to those pushing a variety of proposals to freeze the development and deployment of nuclear weapons: "A freeze at current levels would perpetuate an unstable, and unequal military balance. It would reward a decade of unilateral Soviet buildup and penalize the United States for a decade of unilateral restraint."

On Capitol Hill, proponents of a nuclear freeze intensified their criticism of the Haig position. Rep. Markey: "The inferiority complex running rampant in the Reagan Administration is a result of a myopic concentration on nuclear bean counting." Significantly, Haig chose not to echo the President's surprising comment of last week that the Soviet Union has now achieved a definite margin of superiority. The Secretary spoke only of a military balance that is now threatened. (Marvin Kalb)

CBS EVENING NEWS

1. FALKLAND ISLANDS - That British armada heading for the South Atlantic is off the coast of Portugal tonight, still about two weeks away from the Falkland Islands. But Britain is not waiting for the fleet's arrival. It declared economic war against Argentina today, imposing an embargo on all Argentine imports. And Britain won a pledge of full backing from its Common Market partners for trade sanctions against Buenos Aires. In addition, West Germany, the Netherlands, Austria, and Canada have suspended arms sales to Argentina. (Dan Rather)

The British pound hit a four and a half year low. The British Government, while seeking diplomatic support from its friends, has only limited expectations that the Argentines can be talked into withdrawing. The next few weeks will be a test of nerves for the Argentine government, of course, but also for Mrs. Thatcher's government as the time for diplomacy runs out and the moment draws near when she must decide whether to fight. (Tom Fenton)

In Argentina, a bomb exploded today at the home of a British diplomat and threats have been made against the lives of British citizens living there. Many of the estimated 17,000 Britons in Argentina have begun to leave.

The Soviet Union is Argentina's biggest customer for grain and beef and today the Kremlin accused Britain of planning aggression against the Argentine government. Argentina's official news agency said that Soviet submarines were expected soon in the Falkland Islands region. (Dan Rather)

2. THE U.S. AND THE FALKLAND CRISIS - The trouble over the Falklands is between two strong U.S. allies: Britain, one of our oldest, and Argentina, a relative newcomer that the Reagan Administration is counting on to fight communism in Central America. In fact, Argentina is considered now a bulwark in President Reagan's new Caribbean Basin plan. So this dispute has caught the U.S. in the middle, and that apparently is exactly where the Reagan administration intends to remain--"right down the middle," in the words of one official spokesman. Secretary of State Haig today held two diplomatically equal, hour-long meetings with Ambassadors from Britain and Argentina. Haig also planned a meeting tonight with Argentina's Foreign Minister. (Dan Rather)
3. ISRAEL - Prime Minister Begin today held an unusual unity meeting with members of his Labor Party opposition. He also met with the U.S. Ambassador. Both meetings came a day after Israeli officials vowed to revenge the weekend assassination in Paris of an Israeli diplomat. Israel has blamed the PLO and has indicated it might resume attacks into Southern Lebanon. The PLO denies any involvement in the Paris murder. (Dan Rather)
4. SELF-DETERMINATION AND THE FALKLAND CRISIS - It's a truism that where you sit determines what you see. Sitting in London, you would see the invasion as an assault on national sovereignty. Britain has held the islands since 1833. That's when they expelled the Argentines who had taken it from the Spanish. But the British had been there before the Spanish. They had withdrawn their garrison to save money. And when they returned they claimed that they were taking back what had been theirs from the earlier occupation.

In Buenos Aires, you would see the invasion as a blow against colonialism. This is why so many Latin American nations support the Argentine claim. Sitting in the Falklands, and there are 1800 people sitting there with the most to lose, you would see the invasion as an assault on freedom. There's no way to deny that they know precisely what they want: to remain citizens of their distant but mother country.

This is not a new issue for the world. You see it in the Middle East where the Palestinians want self-determination and Israel

insists on national sovereignty. But the conflict there is far more complex than in the Falklands, where for once a crisis is remarkable for its clarity. The issue is self-determination. And it's no comic opera. (Bill Moyers)

OTHER NOTES

There were no foreign policy topics on the MacNeil-Lehrer or ABC Nightline programs.

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