

The White House NEWS SUMMARY

THURSDAY, APRIL 8, 1982 - 6 a.m. edition

TODAY'S HEADLINES

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NATIONAL

"Reagan/Caribbean" -- President Reagan last night belittled Cuba as a miserable economic failure and said Castro's island nation was now totally dependent on Soviet handouts.

(Reuter, Post)

"Fasing Of U.S.-Arms Stance Urged" -- A profound shift in military strategy in which the U.S. would renounce the 'first use' of atomic weapons if the Soviets attacked Western Europe with conventional forces was called for Wednesday by four high-ranking former administration officials. (Post)

"\$30 Billion In Tax Increases Needed, Rep. Michel Says" — Congress and the WH must come up with about \$30B in tax increases, plus significant spending cuts, to keep the 1983 budget deficit below \$100B, Rep. Michel said Wednesday.

(Post)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

"Britain Plans Naval Quarantine Of Falklands" — Britain declared Wednesday night that any Argentine ship found within 200 nautical miles of the Falkland Islands after midnight Easter Sunday risks being attacked by British naval forces.

(Post)

"Argentines Stressing Willingness To Pursue Negotiation Of Crisis" — Argentina formally installed what it promised would be a moderate military government on the Falkland Islands Wednesday and stressed in softened tones its willingness to negotiate with Britain.

(Post)

NEIWORK NEWS (Wednesday Evening)

FALKLAND — President Reagan has ordered Secretary Haig to London and Buenos Aires to help mediate the Falkland dispute.

(All Networks Lead)

REAGAN — President Reagan arrived in Jamaica to meet with Prime Minister Edward Seaga.

(ABC, CBS, NBC-2)

HINCKLEY — April 27 has been announced as the starting date for John Hinckley's trial. (CBS-8, ABC-6)

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BRITAIN PLANS NAVAL QUARANTINE OF FALKLANDS

LONDON, April 7 — Britain declared Wednesday night that any Argentine ship found within 200 nautical miles of the Falkland Islands after midnight Easter Sunday risks being attacked by British naval forces. In a dramatic announcement to Parliament Defense Secretary John Nott said, "Our first naval action will be intended to deny the Argentine forces on the Falklands the means to reinforce and re-supply from the mainland." While much of the British fleet that left port here Monday is still two weeks away from the Falklands, several high-speed, nuclear-powered British hunter-killer submarines dispatched as a precaution before last week's invasion reportedly have reached the South Atlantic. The announcement surprised many members of Parliament, who had earlier been focusing on embryonic efforts to find a diplomatic solution.

(Leonard Downie Jr., Washington Post, 4/8, Al)

ARGENTINES STRESSING WILLINGNESS TO PURSUE NEGOTIATION OF CRISIS

BUENOS AIRES, April 7 — Argentina formally installed what it promised would be a moderate military government on the Falkland Islands Wednesday and, as tensions continued to grow here, stressed in softened tones its willingness to negotiate with Pritain. The Argentines took this stance prior to Pritain's announcement of a Monday deadline for removing warships from the zone. There was no immediate reaction here to that move. As the president, Gen. Galtieri, met with his Cabinet Wednesday to consider U.S. attempts to mediate the dispute, Argentine officials tried to defuse the crisis and gain international support by stressing what they said were good conditions on the islands and denouncing British attempts to reclaim them as "anachronistic" and a "war to return to a colonial position." (Jackson Diehl, Washington Post, 4/8, Al)

REAGAN SENDING HAIG TO BRITAIN, ARGENTINA

President Reagan Wednesday dispatched Secretary Haig on an urgent mission to Iondon and Buenos Aires in hopes of keeping the crisis between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands from exploding into warfare. On his arrival in Jamaica, the President refused to answer questions about Haig's trip. But WH officials noted the Secretary had received invitations from both governments, and Michael K. Deaver said, "I don't think he would have gone if there weren't some signs of hope." Despite this cautious stance, some Administration sources said privately Haig will have what one called "some rough-sketch American ideas" about how the impasse over control of the Falklands might be broken. But, the sources stressed, these proposals are tentative and subject to modification after Haig finishes his consultations that will include talks with Thatcher and her new foreign secretary, Francis Pym, and almost certainly also with Argentine President Galtieri. (John M. Goshko, Washington Post, 4/8, Al)

BRITAIN ASKS RED CROSS TO HELP FIND 22 MARINES

LONDON, April 7 — Britain Wednesday said it has appealed to the International Red Cross to help discover the fate of 22 Royal Marines captured when Argentine forces seized the Falkland Islands dependency of South Georgia.

(Reuter, Washington Post, 4/7, A23)

FALKLAND—Britain has declared a 200 mile war zone and blocade around the Falkland Islands. Any Argentine ship found in this area could be fired on. The purpose of the blocade is to cut off re-enforcements and supplies from Argentina. The President ordered Secretary Haig to London and Buenos Aires to make the next move in the Falkland dispute.

NBC's Bernard Kalb reports: In both London and Buenos Aires Haig will conduct what is officially called preliminary discussions. U.S. officials denied that he will be carrying any formula for a settlement. But this trip does put U.S. prestige on the line. The Pentagon today denied reports that the U.S. gave Britain advance warning of the invasion.

ABC's Sander Vanocur reports: The President carefully made no predictions about the chance for Haig's success. The President is shown saying, "I directed our Secretary of State..." ABC news has learned that the Argentine leaders now fear they may have gone too far when they occupied the Falklands. They did not believe that the British would react with such force.

ABC's John Scali comments: Secretary Haig has taken on the mission eagerly to prove that he can handle emergencies of this kind without outside help. ABC news has learned that Haig was President Reagan's second choice. In a call to the Argentine President, Reagan offered the mediation services of quote "someone like Vice President Bush to mediate the crisis." The Argentine President showed no interest in Bush's help. Haig, was far from enthusiastic about Bush's possible intervention. Even though the Vice President was named the Administration's International Crisis Manager last summer, both the Argentine and British governments have made it known that they would prefer Haig. Because they feel he knows more of the background. (All Networks Lead)

REAGAN—The President arrived in Jamaica today.

NBC's John Palmer reports: The White House billed his trip as more than a good will tour or a vacation, saying the President planned to discuss the long term U.S. economic and political commitment to the Caribbean. The President is shown saying, "The success of our venture..." The President explained that Secretary Haig was absent because of his efforts to settle the Falkland Islands dispute.

NBC's Don Porter reports: Inflation is down in Jamaica with more goods for sale. Despite the improved outlook Jamaica is still counting heavily on U.S. aid. For that aid the Jamaican Prime Minister is relying on his personal relationship with President Reagan.

CBS's Bill Plante reports: White House sources say that Britain informed Reagan before upping the ante by declaring a war zone would exist around the Falklands. Administration spokesmen had no public reaction to that except to say that Haig's trip is not in response to the war zone.

CBS's Leslie Stahl reports: To avoid any reputation as a rich man's President, Mr. Reagan agreed to work two of the five days. The trip turned into a security nightmare, with three huge military cargo planes carrying cars and tons of communications gear...at what cost the White House would not say.

(NBC,CBS,ABC-2)