

# Foot sides with Pym on British commitment

By George Clark

Differences between Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary, about the next steps to be taken when the Falkland Islands have been liberated, were the subject of comment from MPs of other parties yesterday. Mr Michael Foot, the Labour leader, speaking at the Co-operative Congress in Brighton, was clearly on the side of Mr Pym when he urged that the Government must abide by the United Nations resolution 502 which called for an Argentine withdrawal and a negotiated settlement.

"There cannot be any doubt on this matter", he said. "Britain has been absolutely committed to seeking a negotiated settlement." Mr Pym, in the House of commons only a week ago, had repeated the commitment, Mr Foot said.

"If the British Government were to depart from these commitments not only would they not meet all their undertakings to the UN but would run the greatest danger of dissipating the support for Britain so far given."

Mrs Thatcher will preside over another meeting of the inner Cabinet this morning to review the military position. She is standing firm by her conviction that the Argentine junta has clearly set itself against a reasonable solution.

Among Conservative back-benchers there is strong support for re-establishing British administration for a period of six to 12 months while the islanders return to more normal life and have the chances to give their views about the future. Mr Pym has spoken of a period of six months before their views are sought. But there is a growing recognition that the restoration of British



**Mr Foot at Brighton yesterday: "There cannot be any doubt".**

administration for a long period will impose a great financial and military burden on the United Kingdom.

In government quarters yesterday it was denied that there was a split in the Cabinet on the issue, although it was recognised that there is a difference of approach between Mr Pym and Mrs Thatcher about the eventual settlement of the Falklands dispute, as there had been in the past on economic matters.

Mr Stanley Clinton Davies, MP for Hackney Central and a front bench Opposition spokesman on foreign affairs, pleaded in a radio interview for a "pause" in the fighting for 24 or 48 hours to give the Argentine junta a chance to save human life by agreeing to a negotiated settlement.

Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour MP for West Lothian, one of the Labour group opposed to the sending of the task force, sent a message to the Prime Minister asking that Prince Andrew should be withdrawn from the fighting zone.

He said: "I quite understand that since Prince Andrew's ship was ordered to the South Atlantic, the Queen's son had to go like everyone else in the ship. But equally, his presence is exceedingly unfortunate since it gives credence to the notion of a European princeling coming to subdue emerging nations. Since emancipation from the rule of European princes is the very stuff that most South Americans get in their history books, all sorts of hostile emotions are let loose against the task force."

