

Mr Giffard

c.c. PS/PUS
 Sir A Acland
 Mr Bullard
 Mr Gillmore
 Mr Fearn, Emergency Unit
 Emergency Unit
 NAD

FALKLAND ISLANDS : THE AMERICAN ATTITUDE

1. Roger Harrison (US Embassy) called on me today at his own request to catch up on HMG's thinking about the Falklands situation. I gave him the background to how we were organising ourselves in Whitehall and gave him an idea of how policy was evolving drawing on recent telegrams.
2. Mr Harrison asked me whether I thought it likely that HMG would be asking for direct US help in respect of military options. I reminded him of Mr Nott's reply in the Sunday television interview with Brian Walden. I said that, speaking purely personally, I thought any such request unlikely. But we would no doubt continue to assume, diplomatic and political support apart, that the Americans would give us the benefit of the doubt over requests for peripheral help e.g. use of Ascension Island, other staging and/or overflight requirements. I also mentioned the problem of the residual BAS personnel scattered around the Antarctic and said that if a US scientific vessel turned out to be in the area we might well ask the Americans to help us rescue our people: I gave him this as an example of 'peripheral' help.
3. Mr Harrison said he thought it was important that HMG should understand President Reagan's and the Administration's need to maintain a relationship with Argentina because of its relevance to their policy in Central America and South America as a whole. The Administration wanted to be supportive, but we should avoid facing them with awkward or unexpected requests, particularly in public. I said that while we could see that from the US standpoint the problem might be straightforward, it was highly desirable, both in public comment and in diplomatic communications, that the Administration should avoid seeming to equate Argentina with Britain. We were not particularly happy with having the situation described as an unfortunate dispute between two nations with both of whom the United States happened to be friendly.

P J West
 P J Weston
 Defence Department

5 April, 1982

This should now be culled & put away

Mr Fearn ✓

US EMBASSY: REQUEST FOR MEETING

1. Mr MacCormack, Political Counsellor at the US Embassy, would very much like to talk to you today about the Falkland Islands. Mr Ure's office has suggested you you might be able to see him. Would you please ring Mr MacCormack's secretary on 499-9000 Ext 2113. From the American side, a meeting at around 5.00 pm would be most convenient.

E J Hughes

E J Hughes
Emergency Unit

5 April 1982

Mr Fearn ✓

Mr Weston saw Mr Harrison today. Do you wish to ring as above or assume (boldly) that the request has been mistaken. ✓

Mr Ure ✓

I spoke today to Mr MacCormack's office, apologising for having failed to ring back yesterday and (following the

The discussion at the Pvs' meeting
that you would wish to maintain
a regular channel of contact.

J. P. [Signature]

F-2 [Signature]

Mr. [Name] has the pleasure of
acknowledging the receipt of your
letter of [Date] regarding [Topic].

I have [Action] to the [Department] office
and will [Action] for [Action] further to
[Action] [Action] [Action] [Action]