

FC 011

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LOOSE MINUTE

D/DS11/10/6

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FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. I attach at Annex A the first draft of a passage for the Secretary of State's speech for the debate today, which might lead in to the announcement of an exclusion zone.
2. I also attach the first draft of a guidance telegram which the FCO would despatch to all posts.
3. I am still discussing with legal experts the terms of the announcement itself, but I should be most grateful for your early reactions to the attached drafts.

7 April 1982

*R T Jackling*  
 R T JACKLING  
 Hd of DS11  
 MB 9326 3287 MB

DRAFT

1. On Friday 2 April, Argentina seized the Falkland Islands by force of arms, in flagrant disregard of international law and resolution number of the Security Council. Her Majesty's Government have made it absolutely clear that we do not and will not accept this situation. The Falkland Islands are sovereign British territory. The Falkland Islanders wish to remain under British administration. Argentine forces must be withdrawn from the Falkland Islands, and British administration must be restored.

2. We are seeking to bring this about peacefully by diplomatic means. We shall explore every possibility for doing so, and we hope that our efforts will succeed. But this House, the British people, and the Argentine government should be in no doubt that our position on the fundamental issue is not negotiable. The clear wishes of the Falkland Islanders will be respected.

3. We are now deploying to the South Atlantic a powerful Carrier Task Group and other naval units. With this force we shall be able to undertake a range of operations, should it become necessary to use force to achieve our objective. We hope it will not come to that. We hope diplomacy will succeed. Nevertheless, this House will not forget that the Argentines were the first to use massive force in order to establish their control of the

Falklands. The Island is now subject to an illegal and alien military rule. That is not a situation which we are prepared to tolerate for one day longer than is absolutely necessary. Our first military action will be intended to deprive the Argentine forces on the Falklands of re-supply from the mainland. To this end, I have to tell the House that through appropriate channels the following notice is being promulgated to all shipping forthwith.

You should take steps urgently to convey the terms of this announcement to the government to which you are attached. In so doing, you should express that--

- a. Argentina has committed a constant aggression against sovereign British territory, and against the clear and possible resolutions of the Security Council;
- b. UK in recent months has been negotiating in good faith to bring about a diplomatic resolution of the Falkland Islands issue;
- c. Since the Argentine invasion, UK has been... Argentine forces must be withdrawn...

DRAFT GUIDANCE TELEGRAM FROM FCO TO ALL POSTS

1. At time this evening, HMG made the following announcement:-

You should take steps urgently to convey the terms of this announcement to the government to which you are accredited. In so doing, you should stress that:-

- a. Argentina has committed flagrant aggression against sovereign British territory, and against the clearest possible resolutions of the Security Council;
- b. HMG in recent months has been negotiating in good faith to bring about a diplomatic resolution of the Falkland Islands issue;
- c. Since the Argentine invasion, HMG has made clear that the Island remains sovereign British territory, and that Argentine forces must be withdrawn and British administration restored;
- d. Ministers hope that this can be

achieved peacefully through  
diplomacy, and their efforts will be  
unceasing to that end;

- e. Nevertheless, HMG is not willing to tolerate for longer than is absolutely necessary the subjection of the Falkland Islands to an illegal and alien military rule;
- f. HMG is prepared to use force to achieve its objective if absolutely necessary;
- g. The declaration of an exclusion zone is a first step, and is intended to deny the Argentine forces on the Falkland Islands re-supply and/or reinforcement from the mainland;
- h. Military action and casualties will result only if Argentina does not observe this exclusion zone. We have given the Argentine government and her forces good notice of our intention, and plenty of time to get clear of the area.