



EMM

HL of DSF

E95

BRIEFING ON POINTS RAISED WITH THE GOVERNOR

Q Why did the Royal Marines not demolish the airport? Why did the Royal Marines not have demolition equipment?

Ans
Dm

A. The Royal Marines were heavily engaged in making preparations for the anticipated Argentinian landing. They did however block the airstrip with vehicles and drums. In the event the assault was helicopter borne.

Background note.

The Royal Marines did have plastic explosive. They were however constrained by time (ie only a few hours notice of anticipated landing) and did not believe that the Governor would wish to destroy the airfield. Discretion to the Governor to do so if he judged it advisable was sent by FCO some four hours after the invasion.



Q. What radio links with outside world?

A Available to the Governor on a 24 hour basis was the very powerful cable and wireless transmitter.

Background note.

A requirement for an additional long range emergency set was identified in two recent reports, the last dated January 1982. The requirement was being examined by CUNIFLEET. It is understood that the Governor had also approached the FCO earlier this year.

7 April 1982

Elizabeth McLaughlin

DS 5.

Private Secretary

FALKLANDS: GOVERNOR'S TALK WITH OPPOSITION LEADERS

1. Mr Hunt told me this morning of his talk yesterday evening with Mr Foot and Mr Healey. There were two points on which they had pressed him and about which he thinks they may try to make some running in the debate today.
2. They had asked him why he had not blown up the airport runway and he had said that they had no demolition equipment to do so. Mr Healey had commented that this was a scandal. Mr Hunt commented to me that the marines had never had demolition equipment for destroying the airfield because it had not been envisaged that we would be trying to recapture the Islands ourselves.
3. Mr Healey also expressed surprise that the Governor had been dependent on commercial radio links with the outside world. Mr Hunt had pointed out to him that Cable & Wireless had a powerful transmitter and were entirely at his disposal for a 24-hour service if need be. The Governor went on to comment to me (and he was not clear whether this had been mentioned to Mr Healey) that the marines had asked the MOD for a satellite ground station at various times over the past two years and had been told that this could not be provided for financial reasons.

J B Ure

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7 April 1982

cc:

PS/Mr Hurd
 PS/PUS
 Mr Gillmore
 Mr Fearn, Emergency Unit
 Mr Weston, Defence Department
 Planning Staff
 News Department

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Miss Maki

~~pl~~

pl email

Cherry - motion

Slow down in speaking

with L.V.C.P. (ie. by

2.45 pm, iram)

*no
7/11*