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Original
to News
Dept.

The Secretary of State
approach this on a
basis, but we will need to
check the final line with him.

Private Secretary

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cc: PUS
News Department
Mr Ure
Mr Mallaby, Planning Staff
Mr Williams, UND
Emergency Unit
Falkland Islands Distribution

J.H. Holmes
18/4

FALKLAND ISLANDS : LINE TO TAKE WITH THE PRESS

1. Although a certain amount will depend on the actual circumstances of Mr Haig's departure from Buenos Aires, the PUS and I thought that we should have some contingency lines prepared for News Department for approval or amendment at the time. If Mr Haig is coming to London, this is fairly straight forward. If he is returning to Washington, we want to make it clear that this is not necessarily the end of attempts to arrive at a resolution of the crisis by diplomatic means. Mr Haig's party will be aware, from the message which it is proposed that the Secretary of State should send to Mr Haig, that this is our position.

2. The lines proposed are as follows:

a) If Mr Haig is coming to London.

Mr Haig has obviously concluded, in the light of his discussions in Buenos Aires, that it would be useful to come to London. He will be most welcome. We greatly appreciate his continuing efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the crisis.

b) If Mr Haig is going to Washington.

Mr Haig evidently feels that he needs to return to Washington to consult the President. We remain in close and continuing touch with the US Administration. It is for Mr Haig to comment on the usefulness of his talks in Buenos Aires. Our position remains as set out publicly by the Prime Minister and Mr Pym in the House last week.

c) If asked about possible action at the UN.

The implementation of Security Council Resolution 502 remains our first objective. The Security Council has already made it clear that Argentine withdrawal is the essential element in the resolution of the problem.

C. S. R. Giffard

18 April 1982

C S R Giffard

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