

MORNING DIGEST

Foreign Media Reaction

Falkland Islands ✓

April 12, 1982

HAIG FALKLAND ISLANDS MISSION--British papers today expressed hope that Secretary Haig, returning from Argentina, was bringing ideas for a solution to the crisis. Some comment reflected reservations about the U.S. mediation role.

"Haig Brings Back Terms"

Headlines in London today were "Haig Heads Back to London With Peace Hopes Raised" (Times), "Haig Brings Back Terms for Argentine Withdrawal" (Guardian), "Argentines Get Out of Forbidden Seas" (Daily Telegraph), "Haig's Latin Peace Plan" (Daily Mail) and "Peace Is in the Air--Argentina to Pull Out Under Haig Plan" (Sun).

"Haig's 'Specific Ideas for Discussion'"

Today's independent Times led with "Haig...left Buenos Aires for London with what his spokesman termed 'specific ideas for discussion' to remove the threat of war..."

"Officials accompanying Mr. Haig...gave no indication of the proposals he will be putting to Mrs. Thatcher but there is a slightly more optimistic air in Argentine Government circles that a naval battle can be averted..."

"Ambivalence of U.S. Response Contrasts With EEC Backing"

In an editorial the paper said that "Mr. Haig's spectacular intercontinental shuttle makes it clear that the U.S. Administration is giving top priority to the resolution of the Falkland Islands crisis..."

"But there have, perhaps inevitably, been some misgivings about the spirit in which the Administration approaches the crisis. Some British commentators have even gone so far as to suggest there could have been collusion between the United States and Argentina before the invasion."

"(This) is a wild accusation, unsupported by any evidence. But it is true that there has been an ambivalence in the American response to the crisis that contrasts with the impressive backing that Britain has now received from the other members of the European Community..."

"In its activities as a mediator (the United States) must not be so hungry for a speedy settlement that it fails to take full account of the merits of the issue..."

This summary is based on ICA field reports received by 8 a.m. EST. It does not represent a complete sampling of the world press. Questions on content and sources should be directed to PGM/RC: phone 724-9057

International Communication Agency

"It will be a tragedy if the United States allows itself to become so entwined in diplomatic niceties that it appears to be an unreliable ally..."

"Haig Seen as Basically Sympathetic"

The sister Sunday Times said in a report that "the British in Washington spent the week trying to assess the force of their support and opposition.

"Haig they see as 'sound' (and) basically sympathetic to the British cause. So is...Eagleburger. But they are worried about...Enders and Vernon Walters....Above all they fear the hawkish Jeane Kirkpatrick... who has made little secret of her 'tilt' toward the right-wing Latin Americans..."

The lead story in today's liberal Guardian said, "The Americans were exploring any avenue in their attempts to avert an armed clash, which Mr. Haig was said to believe to be all he could achieve for the time being..."

"Prospects for Peace Depend on Haig Message"

A correspondent for the conservative Daily Telegraph held that "the prospects for peace...depend on the message brought to London today by Mr. Haig."

"Haig Can Do the World a Great Service"

Editorially the paper observed that as the Secretary flew back to London, "though he modestly disavows it he seems to have acquired a 'kit bag' of diplomatic solutions. If they are good ones which meet the unshakable insistence of the Government (with support by the Labor opposition) that the withdrawal of Argentine troops...is a precondition of any talks, then he will have done the world a great service..."

"Haig Said to Have International Force in Mind"

Today's conservative Daily Mail reported that Secretary Haig "was understood to have in mind an 'international peace keeping force' drawn largely from South America to replace the Argentine troops on the Falkland Islands. Whether Mrs. Thatcher would accept such a plan was another matter..."

The nationalistic Sun said "Argentina has agreed to pull its troops out of the Falkland Islands in a peace plan being brought to London this morning by...Haig..."

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"U.S. Sitting on the Fence of Shuttle Diplomacy"

Today's sensationalist tabloid Daily Mirror declared editorially that "the United States is sitting on the fence of shuttle diplomacy."

Buenos Aires: "Virtual State of War"

Argentine headlines read today, "Haig Reiterated No Agreement Reached... Costa Mendez Says Haig Is Carrying Proposal to London and May Return to Buenos Aires" (La Prensa), "Haig to Meet With Thatcher...World-wide Suspense Grows in Face of British Announcement of Naval Blockade Starting Today" (Le Nacion), "Argentine Forces Face Up to Blockade...Costa Mendez Says Negotiations Very Difficult" (Clarín), "Virtual State of War" (Diario Popular) and "Americas Up in Arms Against British" (Cronica).

"Haig's Mission Difficult But Not Impossible"

Independent Clarín said in an editorial titled "Facing the Blockade" that "it is to be hoped that the British Navy will be more judicious than its Government has sounded and will prevent destruction and bloodshed, not only because of considerations of the heavy cost and small profit but because of the involvement of U.S. good offices. The Secretary of State's mission is difficult but not impossible.

"General Haig may get the military forces to avoid contact with each other while new discussions are being organized. The U.K. has opened a Pandora's box. The key to locking it up again is negotiations. Mr. Haig is working on it. We wish him success."

The paper also said: "Argentina may resort to the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty (TIAR) if the British Government fails to order its fleet home by midday today. Haig tried to dissuade the Argentine Government from invoking TIAR but to no avail. According to our sources, General Galtieri told Haig that if Argentina found itself hard pressed militarily, it might accept an offer of assistance already made to it by the USSR."

A London correspondent wrote in conservative La Nacion: "Secretary Haig is reported to have departed for London with moderate optimism but people here will receive him with a sense of relief. His mission is believed to have had some results..."

"U.S. Analysts Concerned Over Soviet Ships"

The paper carried a TELAM (official Argentine wire service) story datelined New York which said, "U.S. naval analysts are concerned over the activity of Soviet ships with sophisticated electronic equipment re-

ported to be in the South Atlantic near the British-blockaded area."

TELAM cited an unnamed "retired U.S. Admiral" as reportedly saying that "unidentified submarines might attack British supply ships and cause an escalation of hostilities."

Qaddafi Offer to Argentina?

The service also reported that "Arab sources in the United Nations have said that Libyan leader Qaddafi had offered Argentina super-sonic planes and missiles...to offset British technological supremacy."

Soviet Union: "Virtually Secret U.S.-U.K. Military-Political Cooperation"

TASS international service in Russian last night ran advance of a Moscow-dated story citing a byliner in today's Pravda as stating that "many British commentators write that London's actions are aimed at exerting pressure not only on the Argentines but also on Britain's NATO allies--primarily the United States--to enlist their support.

"The virtually secret military-political cooperation between London and Washington is already in full swing. British newspapers write that British armed forces are making use of the U.S. military base on Ascension Island, in the South Atlantic, as a transshipping base and mustering point for unleashing military activities against Argentina...

"All this gives the present conflict in the South Atlantic an even more dangerous and ominous appearance. The scene is being set for a broad conflict between one of the developing countries of South America and the global strategic interests of the imperialist powers--the aggressive NATO bloc allies."

Yugoslavia: "Squaring the Military-Political Circle"

A byliner in Friday's Politika of Belgrade declared that "America faces a sort of military and political squaring of the circle--yielding to Britain while avoiding arousing the anger of Argentina....It is obvious that the time has come for strategic reasoning on a new wavelength."

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MIDDLE EAST--Israeli and Arab media today deplored yesterday's shooting incident in the Dome of the Rock in which American-born Alan Harry Goodman reportedly killed two Arab guards and wounded several others. Media in several capitals took note of speculation that Israel might soon move against Lebanon in a military action against the PLO.

Israel: Condemnation of Shooting Incident

Today's media universally condemned Goodman for the shooting incident and, reporting the West Bank to be in a state of turmoil, warned Palestinian Arabs against "adding fuel to the flames."

Independent Maariv likened the shooting to "dropping a bomb on an ammunition dump." The paper wondered whether Goodman acted alone or on behalf of others for a rightist religious group. Along with other papers it warned Arab leaders in the territories not to take advantage of the tragedy by fanning anti-Israeli feelings into violence.

"Incident Would Affect Any Military Operation Into Lebanon"

A political correspondent wrote in National Religious Party Hatzofeh that "according to Jerusalem sources the Temple Mount incident would affect any projected Israeli military operation in Lebanon since such a move could only further antagonize the world and unite the Arabs against Israel."

Media today front-paged a reported statement by U.S. Ambassador Lewis to the effect that Prime Minister Begin had assured him that the Israeli cabinet had taken no decision to go into Lebanon.

"Tension on Lebanese Border Easing"

Political correspondent Ilan Kfir wrote in today's Maariv: "Political sources in Jerusalem said last night that the tension on the Lebanese border is easing following...moves which led the United States to take a firm and determined line on the issue" of an Israeli invasion.

"Frantic" U.S. Efforts to Avoid Border Conflict

Yesterday's media reported "frantic" U.S. efforts to avert armed conflict along the Israeli-Lebanese border. Washington correspondents said Ambassador Habib "stands ready" to leave for the region and that a visit by Secretary Haig could not be ruled out.

Tel Aviv's independent Haaretz yesterday ran Washington correspondent Gideon Samet's assertion that he was told by "Congressional sources (that) if Israel decides to move against Lebanon without any clear provocation, it might as well forget" about aid terms or more arms deals.

In an editorial the paper said the fact that both the United States and the Soviet Union had come out against an Israeli operation on the northern border points to a "U.S.-Soviet understanding" on the issue.

The paper did not favor an Israeli operation in Lebanon, saying that nothing the PLO has done so far "makes one feel that we should draw our sword."

"Israel Need Not Get Involved in Unsound Military Activity"

Similarly, yesterday's Maariv stated in an editorial: "Israel is strong enough to afford not to get involved in an unsound military activity and not to go too far....(After all), our northern towns are quiet and leading a peaceful life...although terrorist activity has not stopped altogether."

Saudi Arabia: "Israeli Design to Sabotage All Such Holy Sites"

Saudi media today reacted angrily to the shooting incident in the Dome of the Rock, seeing it as part of a continuing anti-Palestinian, anti-Islamic process rather than as an isolated incident.

Today's middle-of-the-road Ukaz of Jidda declared, "Israel has openly stormed al-Aqsa mosque, unmasking its terrible design to destroy it, kill the Moslems within it, and sabotage all the Islamic holy sites in the occupied territories."

Riyadh's al-Jazira said, "The Zionist enemy continues to relish aggression and derive pleasure from wreaking injustice and tyranny upon our kinsmen in occupied Palestine."

"State Department Adopts Zionist Allegations"

The paper and al-Riyadh of the same city carried parts of the U.S. State Department statement denouncing the shooting. The latter paper ran the statement in a special front-page box headed "America Condemns" followed by two exclamation points.

Al-Riyadh said, "The American State Department quickly issued a statement in which it tried to suggest that what happened at al-Aqsa mosque was simply an act of 'senseless violence.' It adopted the Zionist allegation that the incident was 'the work of a deranged individual who has now been taken into custody.'"

In an editorial the paper maintained that "the action perpetrated by this Zionist...cannot be isolated from the manifestations of general hostility harbored by the Zionist settlers of the occupied parts of Palestine and systematically fed by organized and specialized Zionist institutions..."

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Jidda's conservative al-Medina today called the shooting incident another episode in a series of "criminal Jewish provocations against all Moslems in general and all Arabs in particular." It appealed to King Khalid to "renew the call to Jihad, coupled with action designed to smash the idols of Jewish tyrants in the land of Palestine and around Jerusalem."

Call for Support of Palestinians

In a separate editorial, the paper termed the incident part of a "sinful Zionist master plan" and called on Moslems to support the Palestinians, who "are defending Islam and the honor of all Moslems, in the face of an enemy armed to the teeth with weapons from the Pentagon."

Saudi comment on the situation along the Lebanese-Israeli border was unavailable this morning. Saturday's al-Jazira, cited above, ran this headline: "As Reports Increase About a Zionist Invasion of South Lebanon, Israelis Reinforce Military Buildup With Massive Forces."

Jordan: "Incident Was Not an Individual Act"

Jordanian media today carried local and Arab condemnation of the shooting incident at the Dome of the Rock, as well as the text of the U.S. State Department's statement deploring the event.

Independent ar-Rai of Amman maintained that "the aggression was not an individual act since the criminal was supported by three men in civilian clothes who opened fire from the rooftops adjacent to the square of al-Aqsa mosque."

"Ultimate Target Is Arab and Moslem Existence"

The paper stated in an editorial, "The danger inherent in yesterday's aggression concerns not only the al-Aqsa mosque or the occupied Arab land but extends to comprise Arab and Moslem existence, since this is the ultimate target of the Zionist war."

Amman's independent ad-Dustur asked, "What should we as Arabs and Moslems do? Should we once again turn to the U.N. Security Council where the U.S. veto awaits us? The Arab and Islamic countries and peoples should shoulder their responsibility regarding al-Aqsa, Jerusalem and every single inch of our occupied homeland."

Regarding the tension on the Israeli-Lebanese border, Amman papers today front-paged wire stories on the meeting between Ambassador Lewis and Prime Minister Begin from which the U.S. diplomat reportedly emerged

"convinced that Israel will attack Lebanese territory."

"Ironic That Arabs Turn to U.S. for Hope"

Today's Jordan Times said, "We find it crudely ironic that it is to the United States that the Arabs turn with the hope of preventing another Israeli invasion of Lebanon, given the reality that it is only by the virtue of Israel's reliance on guaranteed American military and economic support that it has been able to carry out previous acts of aggression against Lebanon and many other parts of the Arab world."

Kuwait: Comparison to American Indian Massacres

The Kuwait Times today compared the victims of the Dome of the Rock incident to massacred American Indians, and called on the Arabs to learn the lesson of "Vietnam, Nicaragua, Angola, Cuba, and El Salvador" that "armed struggle is the answer to oppression."

Today's independent al-Rai al-Aam said "soon the White House will issue a statement mourning the victims (at the Dome of the Rock) and calling for Arab restraint, although it knows the Arabs already are showing more restraint than they should."

United Arab Emirates: "Next Israeli Assault Is Imminent"

Yesterday's press in the United Arab Emirates gave prominent attention to the perceived threat of military action on the Israeli-Lebanese border. Quasi-Government al-Fajr of Abu Dhabi said, "The next Israeli assault is imminent and there is little time for discussions or deliberations, for what is required is immediate action to defend our lands and people."

Soviet Union: "Tel Aviv Hawks Ready for Fresh Adventures"

TASS' Russian-language international service last night cited a by-liner in today's Pravda as writing that "new alarming signals are coming from the Near East. Judging by everything, the ruling circles of Israel are not averse to resorting to a well-tried trick....Taking advantage of the Anglo-Argentine conflict, they would like to continue to implement their expansionist plans..."

"Special calculations...are linked with the fact that Egypt...has its hands tied by the Camp David agreements....Furthermore, the Israeli rear is protected by the United States....One of the shock detachments of the American rapid deployment force is already stationed in the Sinai.

"In this connection the Tel Aviv 'hawks' evidently believe their hands have been untied for fresh adventures..."

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Falklands
International
Communication
Agency

Woody files

Monday, April 12, 1982

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- Britain "Haig's 'Specific Ideas for Discussion'" See Blue p. 1
Note A
- The Times led with "Haig...left Buenos Aires for London with what his spokesman termed 'specific ideas for discussion' to remove the threat of war..."
- "U.S. Ambivalence Contrasts With Impressive EEC Backing" See Blue p. 1
Note B
- In an editorial the paper said that "there has been an ambivalence in the American response to the crisis that contrasts with the impressive backing that Britain has now received from the other members of the European Community..."
- "Haig Seen as Basically Sympathetic" See Blue p. 2
Note A
- The Sunday Times said that "the British in Washington.... see (Haig) as 'sound' (and) basically sympathetic to the British cause."
- "Haig Can Do the World a Great Service" See Blue p. 2
Note B
- The conservative Daily Telegraph observed that "if [Mr. Haig's diplomatic solutions] are good ones which meet the unshakable insistence of the Government (with support by the Labor opposition) that the withdrawal of Argentine troops...is a precondition of any talks, then he will have done the world a great service..."
- "Haig Said to Have International Force in Mind" See Blue p. 2
Note C
- Today's conservative Daily Mail reported that Secretary Haig "was understood to have in mind an 'international peace keeping force' drawn largely from South America to replace the Argentine troops on the Falkland Islands."
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- Independent Clarín said, "The Secretary of State's mission is difficult but not impossible."
- "Haig's Mission Believed to-Have Had Some Results" See Blue p. 3
Note B
- A London correspondent wrote in conservative La Nación: "Secretary Haig's....mission is believed to have had some results..."

Soviet
Union"Secret U.S.-U.K. Military-Political Cooperation"See Blue p. 4
Note A

Pravda carried a byliner's statement that "the virtually secret military-political cooperation between London and Washington is already in full swing."

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Israel

"Like Dropping a Bomb on an Ammunition Dump"See Blue p. 5
Note A

Independent Maariv likened the shooting to "dropping a bomb on an ammunition dump."

"Would Affect Any Military Operation Into Lebanon"See Blue p. 5
Note B

A political correspondent wrote in National Religious Party Hatzofeh that "according to Jerusalem sources the Temple Mount incident would affect any projected Israeli military operation in Lebanon since such a move could only further antagonize the world and unite the Arabs against Israel."

"Israel Need Not Get Involved in Unsound Military Acts"See Blue p. 6
Note A

Maariv stated in an editorial: "Israel is strong enough to afford not to get involved in an unsound military activity and not to go too far."

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Note B

Middle-of-the-road Ukaz of Jidda said, "Israel has openly stormed al-Aqsa mosque, unmasking its terrible design to destroy it, kill the Moslems within it and sabotage all the Islamic holy sites in the occupied territories."

"State Department Adopts Zionist Allegations"See Blue p. 6
Note C

Moderately conservative Al-Riyadh said, "The American State Department....adopted the Zionist allegation that the incident was 'the work of a deranged individual who has now been taken into custody.'"

Jordan

"Incident Was Not an Individual Act"See Blue p. 7
Note A

Independent ar-Rai of Amman held that "the aggression was not an individual act since the criminal was supported by three men in civilian clothes who opened fire from the rooftops adjacent to the square of al-Aqsa mosque."