

4/12/82
Falklands

THIS ARTICLES, READ IN LONDON ON 4/12/82
ALMOST ALL AMN ABANDON EFFORTS +
BLAME THE ARGENTINES FOR THE FAILURE.

ARGENTINES TAKING A PESSIMISTIC VIEW ON FALKLAND CRISIS

No Agreement Reported

Officials See Slim Prospects or Solution Built on Ideas
Haig Takes to London

By: Edward Schumacher, New York Times

Buenos Aires, April 11. Argentine officials and foreign diplomats said today that they were not optimistic about the prospects for a settlement between Britain and Argentina over the Falkland Islands based on the package of ideas Secretary of State, Alexander M. Haig, Jr., was carrying to London.

The Secretary left for London this morning after long meetings with Argentine officials.

The package of ideas Mr. Haig took to London, the Argentine officials and foreign diplomats said, includes a simultaneous callback of the British Navy and a withdrawal of Argentine forces from the Islands, but only after Britain recognizes Argentine sovereignty.

Britain has entertained the proposal in the past of giving Argentina sovereignty while allowing Britain to administer the Islands, as Britain does in the Chinese territory of Hong Kong. But the Argentine package rules out British administration.

Limited Local Autonomy

It would only allow for some form of limited local autonomy such as letting the Islanders share in local government despite the British citizenship of most of them.

Mr. Haig flew to London as the deadline approached for a British blockade of the Falkland Islands.

The blockade, declared against Argentine shipping within 200 miles of the Islands, was scheduled to go into effect at 11:00 p.m. New York time. Immediate hostilities were considered unlikely because Argentina was not expected to challenge the blockade. Most of the Argentine navy is in port, under the defense of Argentina's air cover, Argentine military sources said.

Meanwhile, Jean J. Kirkpatrick, Chief American delegate to the United Nations, said there was a "reasonable likelihood" of a diplomatic solution to the dispute.

The Argentine military sources said several small warships were patrolling the continental coast outside the blockaded zone area. They confirmed reports that four British submarines -- three nuclear powered and one conventional powered -- have moved into the area around the Islands. Argentina has placed mines around the Islands, including at the harbor entrance to Stanley, the capital, where several small Argentine navy ships are moored, the sources said.

The mood in Buenos Aires was one of quiet expectation on an Easter Sunday, a contrast to the frenzy of Saturday's huge public rally supporting Argentina's claim to the Islands.

Few Argentines encountered here in the last week believe there will actually be a war, especially now that the United States has stepped in to negotiate.

"There is a stoic agony in thousands of the nation's families," President Leopoldo F. Galtieri said in an Easter message today, "because many men of our Argentina are on guard with their arms in territories that from now on we will not be claiming in vain."

Argentina has more than 6,000 troops dug in on the Island, 250 miles off its coast, and plans to build the force to between 9,000 and 10,000 in the next several days, the sources said.

The reinforcements and equipment, such as artillery and armored personnel carriers, are being ferried by American-made C-130 cargo planes and requisitioned civilian planes. The air movement will be unaffected by the naval blockade, the sources said.

Argentina seized the Islands, a British colony, nine days ago. In addition to the declared blockade by submarines, Britain is also sending a naval armada which is scheduled to arrive here in about a week.

The Argentine military strategy is not to challenge the superior British navy, military sources said, but rather to try to control the air, taking advantage of its land airfield.

A British built airfield on the Falklands has been hardened and extended in the past week, and a squadron of French-made Mirage jets has been placed there.

Argentina has long laid territorial claims to the Islands. Mr. Haig, who began his diplomacy in London Thursday, met for almost 12 hours here Saturday with Argentine officials, including a session with President Galtieri that ended at almost 1:15 a.m. local time.

The State Department spokesman, Dean Fischer, said in a briefing here early this morning that the talks were "meaningful and open" and that Mr. Haig was carrying to London "specific ideas for further discussion."

Foreign Minister ^Nvicamor Costa Mendez of Argentina said later that the ideas "at best could serve as the basis for an agreement." But he added, "The conditions still do not exist for an agreement."

He said the talks with Mr. Haig failed to reach any conclusion. He said, nonetheless, that Argentina was postponing "for the moment" the meeting of the Organization of American States that it had planned to convoke Monday in Washington.

It is unclear if Britain could accept only those concessions that Secretary Haig is carrying to London, given the strong stamp of the administration of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to recover the Islands.

At the same time, The Galtiere regime -- which, like Mrs. Thatchers's government, has been politically weak at home -- is also under pressure from the Argentine public to keep the Falklands. It has already installed a government there. According to the sources, part of the pessimism over the package is that it is filled with "ideas" and not hard proposals, partly because the Argentine government is not unified on the point.

Though General Galtieri is President and Commander of the Army, ultimate power lies with the military junta on which he sits with the Commanders of the Navy and the Air Force.

The two other members, Admiral Jorge Isaac Anaya and the Air Force General Basilio Lami Dozo, joined in the meetings with Mr. Haig for a short time Saturday night. General Galtieri is clearly the most powerful member of the junta, but the other two hold at least a little power or can delay any solution. Moreover, they generally act within a consensus of the snior officer corps, which demands its say in major decisions.

One sticking point in the immediate objective of Mr. Haig's mission to avert a war is that the British demand Argentine troop withdrawal before even beginning to negotiate the status of the Islands. That would doom a package approach

of negotiating withdrawal and final status at the same time. The Argentines failed to resolve this, the sources said.

Among the ideas considered in the meetings with Mr. Haig was bringing in a third country to help administer the Islands during the negotiations.