

FROM BUENOS AIRES - The morning newspapers bannered here that Secretary Haig was not returning today to mediate the crisis. There was no official reaction from the Presidential palace or the Foreign Ministry where Argentinian sources have told ABC News Haig called Foreign Minister Costa Mendez at least three times yesterday, the last time at 10:00 p.m. local time, proposing a tripartite jurisdiction of Britain, Argentina, and the U.S. to administer the islands--a proposal which Costa Mendez flatly rejected....but as an indication of how deadly serious the Argentinians are about establishing their sovereignty on these islands, a fact which they do not think the U.S. fully comprehends. Argentinians are quick to say that if the U.S. tilts towards Britain, either diplomatically or militarily, then Argentina will look elsewhere for help. As President Galtieri reportedly said to Secretary Haig on Saturday, "Don't box me in. If you do, I'll turn to the Soviets." (Sander Vanocur)

The Soviets are already involved! ABC News correspondent Mike von Fremd has learned that Soviet reconnaissance aircraft based in Angola, are overflying the British fleet right now and passing information on to Argentina. And according to the Associated Press, American officials say the Russians are also providing Argentina information from satellites and intercepts of British radio communications.

Officially, the U.S. has tried to appear neutral between Britain and Argentina. As President Reagan said, when the crisis first erupted, "they are both our friends." However, ABC News correspondent Carl Bernstein has this report on cooperation between London and Washington. (Frank Reynolds)

3. LONDON AND WASHINGTON - Officials here have told ABC News that the U.S. has been providing Great Britain with extensive assistance in its military preparations. As described to ABC News by several officials at the Pentagon and State Department, the assistance is in four areas. Communications--the U.S. is providing a vital link in Britain's communications with its submarine fleet in the blockade area around the Falklands. The U.S. has an extensive network of satellites that can beam signals to the British subs and the armada now steaming towards the South Atlantic. Intelligence--the U.S. has mounted what officials say is a huge intelligence survey of Argentine military activity and has passed on virtually every piece of significant information to the British. That information included early photographic evidence suggesting the possibility of an Argentine invasion of the Falklands. Weather Forecasting--U.S. satellites are providing information for the British on weather and iceberg conditions in the South Atlantic. Supply--the U.S. which is bound by treaty to share use of Ascension Island with Britain is undertaking a massive supply operation there for the British fleet. Storage tanks have been topped off with more than 2 million gallons of jet fuel for British aircraft. What all this adds up to is a tacit U.S. commitment to America's closest ally, Britain, despite President Reagan's suggestion that the U.S. intends to pursue a neutral course between nations he has described as "two good friends." (Carl Bernstein)

Late this afternoon, high ranking officials of the government denied that the U.S. is extending any help to the British, military intelligence or any other information. However, a Pentagon spokesman confirmed the main points in Carl Bernstein's report and other officials in other departments of the government have also said the U.S. is giving the British intelligence assistance. (Frank Reynolds)

4. MIDDLE EAST - Today, the worst clashes were in the Gaza Strip. Israeli forces fired again on palestinian demonstrators--11 people were injured and an eight-year old boy died before reaching a hospital. An Israeli official said that mobs held up the ambulance. (Peter Jennings)

Prime Minister Begin was asked today about questions being raised over whether Israel should withdraw from the Sinai. Begin replied that Israel would withdraw on schedule and that problems with Egypt can be solved by U.S. mediation. But Defense Minister Sharon said again today that unless alleged Egyptian treaty violations in the Sinai are cleared up, Israel should reconsider its position. (Bill Seamans)

Deputy Secretary of State Stoessel is enroute to the Middle East. In London today he and Secretary Haig reviewed strategy to ensure Israel does withdraw from the Sinai on the agreed date. Stoessel's other objective is to prevent an Israeli invasion of Lebanon. (Peter Jennings)

5. SPARE PARTS FOR TAIWAN - The Reagan Administration today asked Congress to approve the sale of \$60 million worth of spare parts for aircraft for Taiwan. A decision opposed by the People's Republic of China, but according to the State Department, it does not mean any change in U.S. policy towards Peking. And it was stressed here today--no new weapons are involved in the sale. (Frank Reynolds)
6. IRAN - Judicial authorities said today that the former Foreign Minister, Ghotbzadeh, will face a firing squad if he is convicted of plotting to kill the Ayatollah Khomeini. (Peter Jennings)
7. HOW SOVIET AGENTS STEAL AMERICAN SECRETS - Amos Dawue, a financier from Singapore, bought three banks in California with money supplied by a Soviet financial institution. Dawue said the Soviet bank lending the money wanted a cover for KGB agents. Posing as California bank employees, these agents would collect personal information on customers employed in high technology, looking to blackmail or buy secrets from those in financial difficulty.....These cases are not new. But the Reagan Administration is warning that the loss of scientific information and technology to spies has now reached dangerous proportions. But some members of Congress are worried about government warnings to begin closing off the openness that American science and business depend on for new ideas. (John Martin)

NBC NIGHTLY NEWS

1. SOVIETS & FALKLAND CRISIS - Intelligence experts in the Reagan Administration at the White House, the State Department and the Pentagon, now claim to have evidence that the Soviet Union has quietly entered the Falkland Island crisis, and on the side of Argentina. (Roger Mudd)

According to U.S. sources the Soviet Union has taken the unusual step in the past few days of providing highly sensitive intelligence about British fleet movements to Argentina. The intelligence comes from first, Soviet satellites which are capable of photographing the British armada now believed to be in the central Atlantic. Second, Soviet long-range reconnaissance planes, the T-95 known as "The Bear" which are huge, lumbering and effective, flying for the most part out of Cuba. And finally, five Soviet ships based it is believed in the Angolan port of Luanda, joining Soviet fishing trawlers in the south Atlantic, traditionally used for electronic spying. Experts here also point to a recent shift in Soviet propaganda, away from a position of apparent neutrality and towards increasing sharp criticism of Great Britain and Secretary Haig's mediation effort. Three-quarters of Argentina's grain sales go to the Soviet Union, and U.S. officials believe the Russians may be trying to improve their relations with Argentina, traditionally an anti-communist country, to ensure a continuation of grain sales in the event of an American-led effort to impose a worldwide embargo because of Poland. (Marvin Kalb)

2. GRAIN - But even so the Soviets are having to import record amounts of foreign grain this year. The U.S. Agriculture Department said today this is the third bad harvest in a row for the Russians and it projected Soviet imports of 44 million metric tons of grain to augment its own domestic crop of 175 million tons. (Roger Mudd)
3. HAIG MISSION - Secretary of State Haig is enroute back to the U.S. tonight after failing to work out a deal between Great Britain and Argentina on the dispute. He left London today saying only that new ideas were under consideration. (Tom Brokaw)

As Secretary Haig left for home, he tried to keep the peace mission alive by saying there are new ideas afoot: "And while the parties are considering these ideas, it will provide an opportunity for me to report to President Reagan prior to proceeding on to Buenos Aires shortly." He was supposed to go to Buenos Aires 24 hours ago but something obviously went "thunk" in the night and he stayed on to try and repair the damage. British sources are saying that Argentina reneged on an agreement Haig won in Buenos Aires. Today, Francis Pym agreed: "After our very thorough discussions all day yesterday a few difficulties arose in Buenos Aires." Stripped of the diplomatic gobbledegook, the sticking point is the Argentine flag over the Falklands--the British won't have it and the Argentines won't take it down. Til there is give on that point, talks can't go forward but

MIDDLE EAST - King Khalid of Saudi Arabia today called on the world's 800 million moslems to conduct a one-day strike tomorrow to protest the weekend shooting spree by an Israeli army reservist at the Dome of the Rock mosque in Jerusalem. (Tom Brokaw)

The official paper of Prime Minister Begin's political party will report tomorrow that Begin intends to call for new elections in Israel in November. (Tom Brokaw)

7. POLAND - Archbishop Joseph Glemp today urged the government to release more than 3,000 Solidarity members who have been interned since December. In a statement sent to Churches and military leaders, Glemp said Soviet involvement in Poland makes freedom impossible. (Tom Brokaw)
8. ATLANTIC MAGAZINE -The article by Pulitzer Prize winner Seymour Hersh accuses Kissinger and his then deputy, Alexander Haig, of deep involvement in the wiretaps which were later ruled illegal. A year ago, FBI documents obtained by NBC News showed Kissinger personally interceded to get the wiretaps and Haig tried to keep them secret even from the Justice Department. Haig is described by Hersh as a backbitting, wheeler-dealer who labeled Senator William Fulbright and Defense Secretary Laird as traitors to this country, for opposing escalation of the war.... (Carl Stern)
9. FALKLAND DISPUTE -Remember when President Carter cut off grain sales to the Soviets after their invasion of Afghanistan? When that happened Argentina increased its Soviet grain sales. Need it be said that Britain is the U.S.' best friend or that Prime Minister Thatcher has been Ronald Reagan's strongest supporter--in Afghanistan, the Olympic boycott, Poland, nuclear arms, and the Iranian hostage crisis. When this crisis broke the Reagan Administration was cozing-up to Argentina. One reason was the hope that Argentina would do more to help fight communism in Central America. American officials won't even describe the invasion of the Falklands as armed aggression. Jeanne Kirkpatrick: "If the Argentines own the islands, then moving troops into them is not armed aggression." Now that's being evenhanded. Maybe American policy will change, but if it doesn't, when this is all over the British will have time to reflect on who supported them when the crunch came and who among their friends was only evenhanded. (John Chancellor)

CBS EVENING NEWS

1. THE FALKLAND ISLANDS - Great Britain and Argentina may again be close to war as British naval vessels approach the islands and U.S. Secretary of State Haig has still not found a solution to the problem. (Dan Rather)

Haig spent the day here trying to salvage something from his shuttle diplomacy, starting with another hour and a half at number 10 Downing Street talking with Prime Minister Thatcher. During the night, Haig had cancelled plans to fly back to Buenos Aires blaming what was called complications in Argentina. The British are charging the Argentines reneged on a deal. Haig isn't saying what happened. But some reports indicate Argentina at first considered and finally rejected a proposal that would temporarily put the Falkland Islands under three flags: joint tripartite control by Great Britain, Argentina and the United States while eventual sovereignty was negotiated. Back at his midtown hotel, Haig talked by phone with Argentina's Foreign Minister Costa Mendez and met again with Britain's Foreign Secretary Francis Pym. Finally, in the late afternoon, the decision was made to fly back to Washington. "We have now received some new ideas and while the parties are considering these ideas, it will provide an opportunity for me to return to Washington to report to President Reagan prior to proceeding onto Buenos Aires shortly." (Mr. Haig) Aids to the Secretary point out that while Haig's mission has not succeeded, returning to Washington does not mean it's over. Haig still has at least a week in which to find a political solution. That is the time it will take the British fleet to reach the Falklands. Time in which economic as well as military pressures build on the Argentines to work out the necessary compromise with the British. (Robert Pierpoint in London)

Despite the time afforded by steadily-moving British fleet, Mrs. Thatcher has just about written off Secretary Haig's mission as a failure. In fact, her aides say it was all over this morning, that the ideas Haig was floating were too vague to be useful. Although Thatcher's tough stance has proven popular with the people, some of her own ministers fear she has little room to maneuver in. Public opinion will quickly turn against her if she fails to win back the Falklands. It is thought she may lose her job in fact, and possibly cost the conservative government its current popularity. Right now, her policy increasingly looks to have a show-down in the South Atlantic. (Tom Fenton in London)

When Secretary of State Haig left here for London on Easter Sunday morning, the Argentines apparently thought they had convinced him of the rightness of their cause, according to several sources in a position to know. They thought that Haig would tell the Thatcher government to turn back its fleet. Then, when he announced he was returning to Buenos Aires, the Argentines assumed things must have gone their way. But they were shocked to find that what the British had in mind was a joint, temporary government on the islands. Argentine diplomats say they are insulted and outraged. They have become contemptuous of what they call 'the Haig Plan' and feel the U.S. has suddenly taken sides, the wrong side. There is a remote

possibility that the large Anglo-Argentine population, that is, the Argentines of British descent, could take a part in administration of the islands. The big problem remains that the intensity of the Argentine feelings about the island are so strong. They feel the British took the islands away from them 150 years ago, and they see nothing wrong with taking them back. They are convinced the Argentine flag must remain flying over these islands. Americans in Argentina are probably not in any danger, at least according to the American ambassador there. But some members of the embassy staff have other ideas about that. The Argentines are increasingly frustrated. There is no longer a British embassy here and some say that the Argentines might seek in some way to take out their frustrations on the Americans. (Bob Schieffer in Buenos Aires)

Washington officials say the Soviet Union is giving Argentina intelligence on the advancing British armada. The Soviets are getting their data from satellites and from intercepts of British communications. (Dan Rather)

2. MORE MIDDLE EAST VIOLENCE - Israeli troops today shot to death an eight-year-old Arab boy. In a day of violence in the Gaza strip, troops also wounded at least sixteen Arabs. The Israelis say hundreds of Palestinians from a refugee camp attacked an army post, injuring four soldiers. The army said the boy was being rushed to a hospital but a mob blocked the ambulance and he died. (Dan Rather)
3. CRASH IN TURKEY - At least 7 Americans were killed today when a military C-130 transport plane crashed in central Turkey. The cause of the crash is unknown. The plane was on a routine mission to a NATO supply base in southern Turkey. (Dan Rather)
4. CONDEMNING MAGAZINE ARTICLE - An article by a Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter claims Henry Kissinger and Alexander Haig were deeply involved in the Nixon wiretapping and White House plumbers operation. (Dan Rather)

The allegations by Seymour Hersh which appear in the current issue of Atlantic magazine accuse both Kissinger and Haig of being far more involved in the wiretapping and plumbers scandal than they had admitted in past testimony. Kissinger is said to have initiated the wiretaps on some of his own aides and reporters. The article said Haig was in charge of the wiretapping, that he relayed the orders as to who should be wiretapped and then read the transcripts and summaries. It said President Nixon ordered Haig to destroy the wiretap records to keep them from the Watergate prosecutor, but the effort failed because FBI director J. Edgar Hoover kept copies to use in blackmailing the White House into retaining Hoover in his job. Spokesmen for both Kissinger and Haig said there would be no immediate comment. (Fred Graham)

THE MACNEIL-LEHREER REPORT

Tonight's topic concerned the dangers of escalating tensions in the Middle East, and how these tensions will affect the United States and the Camp David Accords.

Tonight's guests include Walid Khaladi of the Harvard Center for International Studies; Wolf Blitzler of the Jerusalem Post; and Joseph Sisco, a former undersecretary at the Department of State.

Mr. Khalidi - The recent mosque killing is typical of actions that will occur if Israeli-style annexation continues. The gradual control of the physical environment will create dangerous tensions for many years in the future. Israel, then, will have the responsibility to prevent hostile actions that inevitably will arise. Not only do they desire the West Bank, but also the water resources of southern Lebanon. They use the existence of PLO troops there simply as a pretext for invasion. Increasing political and economic desperation at home may be the catalyst for such an invasion. Only the U.S. with stern talk could dissuade the Israelis from attacking. The Arabs in Israeli-controlled territories and in the Arab world in general are feeling desperate. The U.S. had demanded the impossible of the PLO and that's prior recognition of Israel. The straight-laced policies of Kissinger aren't viable. The Palestinians are the most educated of the third-world peoples and must be dealt with as such.

Mr. Blitzler - The attack at the mosque was a great tragedy and the great majority of Israelis think it was a deranged fanatic who did it. Now it seems the Arabs are using the act of one man to condemn the entire Israeli population. As far as Lebanon is concerned, if the Israelis were going to invade, they surely have done it already, knowing their penchant for surprise attacks. As it is, hints and rumors are all over the news media. Clearly, the Israelis would need an obvious provocation before crossing the border into southern Lebanon. It is not unlikely that Palestinian refusals to get involved in negotiations might cause a war in the region.

Mr. Sisco - The situation must be serious if the State Department sends its number two man. No doubt the Israelis will withdraw from agreed territories come the end of April because, like Egypt, it sees the treaty to its benefit. Yet the U.S. should again be vigorous in the peace process and not let the matter rest on the Israeli-Egyptian Peace Treaty. It is unfortunate that the Palestinians aren't able to make a decision to become involved in negotiations.

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ABC NIGHTLINE

Tonight's program focused on the question of the U.S. posture of strict objectivity between Britain and Argentina and whether that is still believable.

IN LONDON, ABC's John Laurence: Officially, Britain's Minister of Defense is refusing to comment on the reports of significant U.S. military assistance to the British Falkland Island expedition. Officials say that confirmation or denial will have to come from Washington, not London. Privately, however, military sources say any U.S. assistance may be small rather than large scale. Resupply for the British fleet and air arm is an area of cooperation under normal circumstances with British and American ships and planes using each other's facilities on a regular basis. The British military will not comment on the possible refueling of the fleet at Ascension Island, saying that it is operational and, therefore, a secret matter. What should be kept in mind is that Britain and the U.S. normally cooperate closely on a wide range of military and intelligence affairs....But it is difficult to determine whether normal assistance has been stepped up for the Falkland Island operation or whether it falls within the framework of prepared contingency arrangements for military cooperation between the countries.

KOPPEL: ABC's Carl Bernstein first broke the story on ABC World News Tonight. At that time the White House categorically denied it, since that broadcast, however, things have changed.

BERNSTEIN: Gave a summary of his earlier report on this evening's ABC News. Koppel stated that just half an hour ago the White House was saying that they no longer deny Bernstein's report, it now does not want to comment. Koppel asked Bernstein about his talks with other government officials concerning the story. Bernstein said that about an hour after his story ran, and after there had been a "categorical denial" by the White House, he had received two calls from senior officials within the Administration. Both officials apologized for having denied the story and said that the story was absolutely accurate in all four of its essential points. People around this town who were involved in the denial of the story all had contact with one person within the government who was telling senior officials that indeed the story was not true. When asked, he stated that the official was Bobby Inman. Bernstein said that clearly in this case the Deputy Director of the CIA, as he has on several occasions within the last several months, has gone around the town dissembling a little bit about the truth not only to reporters but also to officials within the Administration. One of the officials who called him to apologize and issued a correction to the denial, said, indeed, the White House was very seriously worried that knowledge of the U.S. role in helping the British would make it more difficult for Secretary Haig to go to Buenos Aires.

's MIKE VON FREMD: From bases in Luanda, Angola, U.S. officials say Soviet "Bear" reconnaissance aircraft have been taking off for an 8,000 mile roundtrip journey to track the British war fleet. The Soviets have also been tracking the Soviet fleet by satellite and trying to intercept British radio communications. U.S. officials say that all this intelligence information that the Soviets have been gathering is being shared with the Argentine Government. The Soviets have been keeping the Argentine Government up-to-date on the progress and exact location of the British warships....and in recent weeks the ties between the two countries have grown even closer. Argentina and the Soviet Union have just signed a fishing rights accord and the Soviets have agreed to supply Argentina with highly enriched uranium.

STANLEY CLINTON DAVIS, MEMBER BRITISH PARLIAMENT: Asked if the help the U.S. is providing the British will turn things into a East-West confrontation, Davis replied that the posture of being evenhanded in a situation where the Argentines have plainly acted illegally, makes an evenhanded attitude on the part of the U.S. utterly impossible in the final analysis. Of course, the mischief making policies of the Soviet Union is well known. Asked if the U.S. may now be damaged as a intermediary, Davis replied that he did not agree. He believed the U.S. leverage in relation to the OAS was highly significant.

RAUL QUIJANO, ARGENTINE AMBASSADOR TO THE OAS: Said his government denied absolutely the assistance by the Soviet Union which has been reported, this is speculation. Concerning Secretary Haig's role, Quijano said that Argentina trusted him and he has worked very hard and has made tremendous progress in these few days. He believed Haig could bring the two sides to a solution which he said everyone wanted.

IN BUENOS AIRES, SANDER VANOCUR: He didn't believe that Haig's mission has been damaged one bit. He didn't think we were anywhere near a possible Soviet-U.S. conflict over this issue, indeed, he would not be surprised if the U.S. and the Soviet Union had not had contacts to make sure this dispute remains localized. Argentina's junta does not want war with Great Britain. It wants sovereignty over the islands; it wants its honor to remain in tact. The Argentine Foreign Ministry is sophisticated and they know that Britain is America's closest ally. They trust Haig; they were impressed by his doggedness and his expertise as a diplomat. Asked if we were any closer to a solution than we were a week ago, Vanocur said "no."

BARRIE DUNSMORE, IN LONDON: Thought the British reaction to this story will probably be positive because there has been a certain frustration there at the idea that the U.S. wanted to play this down the middle. He said the U.S. can still play the role of honest broker as long as the U.S. stays neutral on the key issue, at least publicly, of sovereignty.