

Falklands
4/13/82

Woddy
file?

Tuesday, April 13, 1982

EARLY FOREIGN MEDIA REACTION

SUMMARY: Widespread coverage of the Falkland Islands dispute focused on Secretary Haig's mediation efforts. Headlines and editorials in several West European countries praised his efforts.

London

Secretary Haig's efforts to help resolve the Falklands dispute was top story. Headlines emphasized "difficulties" and "time slipping away."

Praise for American efforts was given by the Financial Times and Daily Mirror.

Headlines--all front page leads:

"Time Slipping Away, Says Haig After Falklands Deadlock"--Times

"Haig's Peace Hopes Fade"--Daily Telegraph

"Falklands Hit 'Difficulties'"--Guardian

"No Deal"--Daily Mirror

"Haig Delays Shuttle For More No. 10 Talks"--Daily Express

"Maggie Digs Her Heels In"--Daily Mail

Praise from the Financial Times:

"...The extraordinary shuttle diplomacy being conducted by Mr. Alexander Haig...seems to be working..."

"The main point...is that with the aid of the United States, tempers seemed to have cooled. It is entirely welcome that the United States, which has more than a foot in both camps--Europe and Latin America, should have behaved in this fashion."

"It is a long time since a superpower has shown such responsibility in seeking a peaceful solution to an international dispute."

Praise from the left-oriented Daily Mirror: "Alexander Haig has shown in the past few days that the mantle of world diplomacy fits comfortably on his shoulders....No one could have done more to help the search for a peaceful settlement..."

France

Headlines:

"While Haig Continues His Goodwill Mission, the Argentines Have Reportedly Mined the War Zone"--France-Soir

"U.S. Gendarme of the World?"--Figaro/Aurore

"The Coup in the Falklands: A Threat for All the Maritime Powers"--Les Echos

"Total Calm in the 'War Zone'; Haig Transmits Argentine Proposals to London"--Parisien

"British-Argentine Military Face to Face"--Le Matin

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West
Germany

Headlines:

- "Ray of Hope in the Falklands Conflict; Haig Ceaselessly Trying to Bring about Compromise"--Frankfurter Neue Presse
- "Haig Mission at Decisive Stage"--General-Anzeiger
- "Haig Struggling For Peace Settlement..."--Westdeutsche Allgemeine
- "Crisis Diplomacy, Threats, Proosals--Danger of War...Continues"--Frankfurter Allgemeine
- "London Hopes for Peace Settlement..."--Stuttgarter Zeitung
- "Will Galtieri Withdraw His Troops If London Stops Its Fleet?"--Die Welt
- "Argentina Offers Withdrawal of Troops"--Sueddeutsche Zeitung
- "Submarines Blocking Falklands"--Frankfurter Rundschau

Praise from Die Welt correspondent Thomas Kielinger: "...If anyone has the authority to mediate in an attempt to find a way out, if anyone is in a position to achieve something, it is the representative of the United States..."

Praise from independent Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich: "Secretary Haig is playing his role as a mediator with energy and with exemplary discretion..."

TV One's last night main newscast: "Given Secretary of State Haig's mediation efforts, a peaceful solution...is discernible..."

Italy

Praise from Ennio Caretto in centrist La Stampa in New York: "In his pendulum diplomacy, the former General is showing an unexpected efficiency."

Soviet
Union

"...It actually is perfectly clear that the United States is trying to take the heat out of the Anglo-Argentine conflict primarily because of the wish to defend its own foreign policy, military positions and its interests."

"The White House is clearly alarmed at the prospect of losing a trusted ally and conductor of its policies in Western Europe should the Thatcher Government have to resign as a result of the crisis that has flared up."

FALKLAND ISLANDS DISPUTE

Commentators in West European countries anxiously watched the progress of Secretary Haig's shuttle diplomacy and speculated on chances of averting warfare.

British Comment"Haig Diplomacy Seems to Be Working"

The London Financial Times said "it is still touch and go. But the extraordinary shuttle diplomacy being conducted by Mr. Alexander Haig...seems to be working..."

"A Poor Second Best for Us?"

The conservative Daily Telegraph observed that "one wonders whether the Government needs the Americans to set the pace. The speed of the operation may discourage the coolness and clarity which are the qualities most needed in the crisis....A compromise might be a triumph for America, a poor second best for us."

"Haig Has the Clout"

The liberal Guardian remarked that "Mr. Haig has a batch of proposals 'as time runs out,' and he is prepared to push them to the extremities of jet lag....There is a limit to the muscle he can flex. So far he has (made) some progress. Argentinian withdrawal seems possible enough....If Mr. Haig does not have the clout to bring movement, then nobody has that diplomatic clout."

West German Comment"In a Position to Achieve Something?"

Conservative Die Welt of Bonn said today, "If anyone is in a position to achieve anything, it is the representative of the United States..."

"Haig's Exemplary Discretion"

Liberal Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich said "Secretary Haig is playing his role with exemplary discretion. However, people in London do not even like the term 'mediator.'"

French Comment

Conservative Figaro of Paris said "two things are clear. The first is the complete failure of the U.N. to act....The second is that...there is only one power capable of undertaking a goodwill mission with reasonable chances of success...Whether it wants it or not, America must play the role of world gendarme..."

FALKLAND ISLAND DISPUTE

Italian Comment

"Falklands Turn World Attention Away from Poland, Afghanistan"

Conservative Il Giornale of Milan, report from New York: "The atmosphere in Washington is of mixed concern and expectations for the results of Haig's shuttle mission." Paper's report from Moscow: "Moscow justifies the Argentine stand as being anti-colonialist, but the real reason is...that the Soviet Union is the main importer of meat and grain from Argentina..."

"The American mediation efforts are derided in the Soviet Union. ...The Falklands are useful...to turn world attention away from the Polish and Afghan issues."

Haig Mediation "Frantic"

Centrist La Stampa of Turin, New York correspondent: "In his shuttle diplomacy, the former General is showing an unexpected efficiency. It seems that his preference runs to a Hong Kong-type solution. His mediation is frantic."

Haig's "Tacit Truce"

Rome's Il Tempo, Washington correspondent: "Secretary Haig has obtained a tacit truce from the two sides....The careful optimism of the State Department is reflected in Ambassador Kirkpatrick's statement."

"A Significant Event in the Western Hemisphere"

La Repubblica from New York: "A significant event has already taken place in the Western Hemisphere: the total solidarity offered to Argentina not only by its revolutionary and underground groups at home, ...but also by regimes traditionally...hostile like those of Cuba and Nicaragua."

Soviet Comment

TASS international service yesterday ran a London-dated story saying: "Certain conservative papers are presenting Haig's trips almost as a 'peace mission' when it actually is perfectly clear that the United States is trying to take the heat out of the Anglo-Argentine conflict primarily because of the wish to defend its own foreign policy, military position and interests."

"The White House is clearly alarmed at the prospect of losing a trusted ally and conductor of its policies in Western Europe should the Thatcher Government have to resign as a result of the crisis that has flared up."

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MIDEAST DEVELOPMENTS

Jordanian Comment

Stoessel visit: Amman papers today ran straight news stories without comment, saying the visit is "to defuse tension in the region." Stories are based on both White House and State Department briefings.

Al-Aqsa mosque incident: Independent Jordan Times editor today wrote, "In the past 15 years the Government of Israel, supported and financed by American aid, has expropriated about one-third of the land of the West Bank and Gaza. If this is less dramatic than a lone gunman, it is no less sinister.

"Let us keep our focus straight. There is no difference between the crazy soldier and the American-backed Israeli Government. Dead Palestinians are dead Palestinians, no matter who kills them."

Soviet Comment

Moscow world service in English yesterday commented on the al-Aqsa incident: "Officials in Tel Aviv and Washington claim that the terrorist act...was committed by an unbalanced person. This is the version the State Department puts forward.

"Yet, how can the U.S. Administration have any version at all? After all, the Israeli authorities have had no time even for preliminary inquiries as yet. By insisting on its version, official Washington seeks to conceal the existence of a large-scale Israeli (plot) against the Palestinian people..."