

Falklands

MORNING DIGEST

Foreign Media Reaction

April 14, 1982

HAIG FALKLANDS MEDIATION--Foreign media variously interpreted Secretary Haig's return to Washington as marking an interruption or a breakdown of his efforts to avert armed conflict. Much comment blamed Britain and Argentina for "intransigence" which might doom further mediation.

"Haig Takes 'New Ideas' to Washington"

Today's headlines in London included "Haig Fails to Break Deadlock But Takes 'New Ideas' to Washington" (Times), "Fresh Hope as Haig Flies Out With New Ideas" (Guardian), "Haig to Brief Reagan on New Peace Ideas--Junta Keeps Talks Alive" (Daily Telegraph), "Haig Goes Home. Now the Crucial Issue Is...Whose Flag Flies" (Daily Mirror) and "Full Ahead for War!" (Sun).

Correspondent David Cross of the independent Times of London said today that upon the Secretary's departure for Washington he was "looking happier than at any time since he arrived in London" but that "it is clear that the main sticking point remains Argentina's claim to the sovereignty of the Falklands once their troops are withdrawn..."

"U.S. Cannot Long Remain Uncommitted"

In an editorial the paper held that "while Mr. Haig continues his attempts at mediation it is unlikely that the United States will precipitately forsake its policy of even-handedness. But there is no reason why Britain should not start pressing for more help from her ally, moral and material..."

"America's global dispositions involve a crucial dependence on islands, many of which are British. Britain is now attempting to repel an invader and secure some justice for one of her islands. The U.S. Administration cannot long remain uncommitted in this struggle and expect Britain not to draw unfavorable conclusions for the future..."

"Has Not Delivered Support We Might Have Expected"

The liberal Guardian today maintained that "Mr. Haig has delivered all the hours and exhaustion we could wish. But he has not yet delivered the unflinching support...that Mrs. Thatcher might have expected of our oldest ally and supplier of \$2 billion deterrents."

"If he can deliver, and there is an alpha for effort, then damage limitation with tolerable humor can follow on. If he cannot, then Downing

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

Street is in its tightest corner and Britain will have much--besides 'new ideas' and consultations with Mr. Reagan--to ponder in the South Atlantic and beyond..."

"Prize for Haig Could Be Supremacy in Conduct of U.S. Foreign Policy"

Washington correspondent Richard Beeston of the conservative Daily Telegraph observed today, "If Mr. Haig...can withstand the punishing long-distance pace of his present 'shuttle' diplomacy, and if he can avert war in the South Atlantic, he stands to gain a great deal. The glittering prize could be victory in his long struggle with White House aides and Mr. Caspar Weinberger...for supremacy in the conduct of U.S. foreign affairs.

"But besides the inherent uncertainties of the situation, the mental and physical strains to which Mr. Haig is subjecting himself are formidable."

"Reagan and Haig Must Choose"

In the view of the nationalistic Daily Mail, "President Reagan and his Secretary of State have to choose. They cannot be even-handed in this crisis. They have to come down on one side. And in the name of morality and friendship, that side has to be Britain's. Should they not see it that way, the very structure of the Atlantic Alliance could be undermined."

An editorial in today's conservative Daily Express declared that "the United States is fully entitled to do its diplomatic utmost....But the United Kingdom is fully entitled to expect that if the American diplomacy fails, the United States will support its oldest friend and ally..."

"We Should Be Grateful But We Want the Islands"

The sensationalist tabloid Sun said today, "We should be grateful to Mr. Haig for his efforts to achieve a peaceful solution....(But) the Islands are British. They were taken by force. We want them back. Let Al Haig now join with President Reagan in using all America's considerable leverage to persuade the Argentines to withdraw..."

"Haig Gives Time for Reflection"

French headlines today were "Haig Unable to Ease Crisis...Back to Square One" (Figaro/Aurore), "Haig Gives London and Buenos Aires Time for Reflection" (Les Echos), "Haig Mission Getting Bogged Down" (Parisien Libere), "Haig Checkmated" (Le Matin) and "Diplomatic Deadlock" (Communist L'Humanite).

"Haig's Task Is Complex"

Liberal Le Monde today maintained that "the Argentine-British confrontation... is a grave challenge for the United States....The Secretary's task... is much more complex than is apparent....He must not fail. A naval battle in the South Atlantic would be considered a new defeat for the United States, for its world prestige and most especially for its image in Latin America.

"In calling for withdrawal of the Argentine forces...Washington has once more made itself the 'bad guy' in Latin American eyes....This situation will become even more uncomfortable if there is armed confrontation. Whatever the nature of the Buenos Aires regime...a British intervention would appear anachronistic to the Latin Americans.

"The big beneficiary would surely be the Soviet Union..."

"Superhuman Task Dealing With Vanity and Arrogance"

Moderately conservative Figaro and Aurore held that Secretary Haig's "task was clearly superhuman since the issue was to find a solution satisfactory both to the vanity of the Argentine military leaders and to the arrogance displayed all along during this crisis by the British..."

"Mission Getting Bugged Down"

Mass-circulation Parisien Libere suggested that the Haig mission was "getting bogged down." It said that "Buenos Aires is getting more support from Latin American countries....The Iron Lady is clearly trying to gain time to negotiate at the very last minute from a position of strength while waiting for the major part of the Royal Navy to reach the Falklands."

"Two Adversaries Use Haig to Avoid Their Responsibility"

Independent Quotidien de Paris observed: "...General Haig is now handling the most painful mission of his career....The U.S. Secretary has become a tool in the hands of two adversaries who are using him to try to avoid the responsibility of starting a conflict. This is martyrdom for a man of action..."

"An inability to choose between risks reduces the U.S. Administration's credibility. In deciding last night to return to Washington, Alexander Haig showed that Washington diplomacy did not know what choice to make or did not dare to make it.

"The USSR will certainly take advantage of this weakness."

"Mission Ends for the Time Being"

Today's headlines in West Germany included "Haig--We Have Some New Ideas" (Rheinische Post), "Haig Has 'Serious Difficulties' in His Mediation Efforts" (independent General-Anzeiger of Bonn), "Haig Faces Unyielding Positions" (Frankfurter Rundschau), "Haig Mission Without Success--'Time Is Running Out'" (Die Welt), "Haig Suspends Mediation Efforts" (pro-Christian Democratic Frankfurter Neue Presse), "Haig Mission Fails for Time Being" (liberal Sueddeutsche Zeitung of Munich) and "Danger of War Not Eliminated" (left-center Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger).

"A Time for Reflection"

A byliner in conservative Frankfurter Allgemeine judged today that both sides' "seeming indifference to Haig's mediation efforts does not mean that diplomacy must keep silent and that nothing can be done. Like any gambler the adversaries are trying to get an edge on the bidding and are using the time they have been given for maneuvering.

"It is a time for reflection. Haig has given each party a full overview of the other's ideas....Since war would be tantamount to defeat for both sides, Haig will be called upon to make another mediation attempt.

"The problem is that Haig, in order to restore peace, takes a 'neutral' stand toward both sides....Such equal treatment is in contrast with the U.N. resolution and is considered an insult in Great Britain..."

"Haig Must Devise Face-Saving Formula"

Today's conservative Die Welt of Bonn judged: "Who will turn out to be the winner and who the loser...depends on how the Islands' sovereignty question is resolved. That will determine the context of the next round of Haig's mediation efforts. He will have to devise a formula allowing both sides to save face."

"Intransigence Doomed Haig Mission"

Left-center Frankfurter Rundschau wondered today, "Are the policy makers in London and Buenos Aires really ready to stop the fateful trend developments are taking? There is reason to doubt this when one looks at the intransigence both sides displayed in dooming Secretary Haig's mission..."

A correspondent in London for West German TV Two said last night that "it was Secretary Haig's second, even desperate attempt to mediate a solution of the crisis. Prime Minister Thatcher has burned all bridges behind her, she is fighting with her back to the wall..."

"Haig Could Consolidate His Prestige"

Today's independent Tagesspiegel of West Berlin judged that "if Alexander Haig succeeded in reconciling the two positions (on the issue of sovereignty over the Falklands), he would avert a conflict which is superfluous and detrimental to the entire Western world, and would consolidate his own prestige in Kissinger's footsteps."

Pro-Social Democratic Volksblatt Berlin today argued that "Haig's endeavors have been appreciated in Buenos Aires, though given little hope for a settlement..."

"Intransigence Decreases Chances for Solution"

Italian headlines today included "U.S. Mediation Is Blocked--Humiliated by Europe, Argentina Will Unavoidably Take Further Steps Toward Moscow" (La Stampa), "British and Argentine Intransigence Decreases Chances for Compromise Solution" and "Haig Interrupts Mission" (centrist Corriere della Sera, Milan), "Haig Returns to Washington Defeated by English-Argentine Intransigence" (conservative Il Giornale, Milan), "Haig's Mission Fails" and "Haig Fails First Round But Hopes to Prevent the Worst" (La Repubblica) and "Now Danger of War Becomes Dramatic" (Communist l'Unita of Rome).

"Most Difficult Shuttle"

Turin's center-left La Stampa asserted that compared to the former Administrations' Middle East negotiations "Haig's shuttle is much more difficult...The mediator can only pledge his prestige and that of the U.S. President and publicly face a great personal and political risk..."

U.S. Domestic Opposition to "Neutrality" on Issue

Rome's leftist La Repubblica remarked that "on his return home Haig will find that U.S. public opinion accepts with difficulty U.S. neutrality in this crisis."

"From the beginning this neutrality was not easy to accept, even by the State Department, where the pro-Atlantic members like Eagleburger and Haig himself found themselves at odds with the supporters of Argentina, particularly Thomas Enders..."

"Situation Not Altogether Hopeless"

Stockholm's moderate Svenska Dagbladet said today of Secretary Haig's mediation efforts, "...Despite the setbacks, the diplomatic situation does not appear to be altogether hopeless."

"High Stakes of Hegemony"

Yesterday's Irish Times of Dublin said Secretary Haig must have found it "tough going" in his talks with Mrs. Thatcher, but the paper added that he "is an old soldier, who has presumably endured worse, and he has high stakes to play for, namely the hegemony of his country in the Western Hemisphere.

"That interest takes precedence over the American 'special relationship' with Britain--and over any misgivings about the horrible nature of the Argentine regime. So in spite of the indications that Mrs. Thatcher took a hard line in her talks with Mr. Haig, there must still be a considerable likelihood that a face-saving formula will emerge..."

Argentina: "Russian Fleet in Falkland Area"

Headlines in Buenos Aires this morning read "New Proposal Expected From Haig Today...OAS Warns of Hemisphere Endangered" (Clarín), "Argentina Makes Representation to U.N." (La Prensa and La Nación), "100,000 Men on War Footing...Air Force Claims Falklands Now an Impregnable Fortress...Political Storm in London...Thatcher's Future at Stake" (Diario Popular) and "Russian Fleet in Falkland Area" (Cronica).

"Argentina's Dramatic Hour"

Byliner Jesus Iglesias Rouco wrote in conservative La Prensa today: "Everything indicates that a confrontation between Argentina and Britain, which would probably lead to intervention by the United Nations, is becoming inevitable. Argentina is living in a dramatic hour and must be prepared to fight..."

"This is a delicate and dangerous situation because neither London nor Buenos Aires is assured of absolute control of the theater of operations and a spark could cause an explosion."

"Haig Tried to Sell Something Made in Britain"

A columnist wrote in the paper that "the United States has had an excessively tight bond with Britain for too long to be able to take the part of honest broker. Haig's good-offices mission was at best that of a salesman who intended to sell us something produced in Britain. But the quality of what he offered was unsatisfactory and the price--which may or may not have included a commission--was said to have been excessively high..."

"If There Are New Ideas They Should Be Considered"

London correspondent Luis Mario Bello wrote in today's conservative La Nación: "General Haig will fly back to Buenos Aires after his

Washington stop. Neither London nor Buenos Aires has an interest in seeing that his trip ends badly. If Reagan's envoy took such pains, it was not for the fun of it and if there are new ideas, they should be considered with attention and good will in both capitals."

"Trying to Keep Conflict Out of the U.N."

Byliner Jorge Lozano wrote today in mass-circulation Diario Popular: "Reagan and Haig are trying to keep the Anglo-Argentine conflict from going before the U.N. a second time and alternatively from evoking a decision under the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty. This is because the White House expects that the Soviet Union and the non-aligned will now support Argentina in the United Nations. It is also because it believes that if there is a vote under the Treaty, the United States will have to turn a cold shoulder to Argentina to avoid mortifying the British and causing a commotion in NATO."

Brazil: "Time Conspires Against Mission"

Yesterday's liberal Folha de Sao Paulo ran a Buenos Aires correspondent's observation that "time is conspiring against Secretary Haig's peace mission, but the two nations involved in the conflict for the Malvinas/Falkland Islands are doing their best to keep from firing the first shot while Haig's shuttle is going on..."

"Both nations know that any shot in the South Atlantic would also hit Secretary Haig, carrying the conflict into unthinkable consequences..."

Importance of Haig Mission

Nationalistic Diario Popular of the same city yesterday stressed the importance of the Secretary's mission and said, "It seems that (Argentina and Britain) are aware of the seriousness and the international repercussions that the (Falklands) dispute could provoke. And now the two countries are tending toward a greater reciprocal tolerance."

The paper said it sympathized with Argentina's plight, "but not with the method used by its government, which could have the most disastrous consequences including, and especially, the transformation of the South Atlantic--which is so important to us--into a war zone."

Peru: Proposal by Peru Will Help Haig

Lima's leading El Comercio wrote yesterday, "The acceptance of the Peruvian proposal for a 72-hour truce by Argentina and its high-level consideration by Great Britain raises new hope for a peaceful solution to the conflict between these two countries...The peace mission under-

taken so rapidly by U.S. Secretary of State Haig...will be helped by this truce....At the moment, the most important thing is to maintain the peace and avoid a military confrontation with the (resulting) bloodbath..."

Ecuador: "May All Latin America Rise as One Man!"

Quito's conservative El Comercio stated yesterday that "we wish with all our heart that the mediation attempts are successful. But if these attempts fail and our brother republic...is the victim of British aggression, may all Latin America, acting as one man, rise up and support the Argentine Republic!"

Mexico: "Reagan Indecision"

A byliner in official El Nacional of Mexico City asserted yesterday, "It happens that Mr. Reagan has not made up his mind regarding what attitude to take (in the Falklands dispute) and this indecision is very unfortunate (because) the Soviet Union...has made up its mind and has sent a powerful naval force near Argentinian waters to assist Argentina in case Great Britain attacks."

"Haig's Mediation Very Efficient"

In the opinion of a byliner in yesterday's nationalistic La Prensa of Mexico City, "U.S. diplomatic policy (in the Falklands dispute) has been more intelligent and fair than...that followed by the European Common Market....Alexander Haig's mediation in this affair has been very efficient."

"U.S. Moral Authority Not Very Solid"

An editorial in yesterday's center-left Excelsior argued, "We are all at the brink of war, counting on last-minute U.S. diplomatic mediation....Nevertheless, because the United States has used its resources...to arm governments to maintain a precarious peace in subjugated nations, its moral authority in proposing a peaceful solution (to the Falklands dispute) is not very solid."

Panama: "Haig After a Slice of the Oil Fields"

Government-controlled La Cronica of Panama City yesterday ran a byliner's query: "What is Mr. Haig after?...The answer is clear and simple: to attempt to bend the dignity and the rights of the Argentine people to satisfy the imperial appetites and arrogance of Great Britain and see what slice of the rich oil fields of the Malvinas he can get for the United States."

Hong Kong: Time for Two More "Shuttles"?

Pro-PRC Ta Kung Pao, estimating that Mr. Haig has only enough time to make two more "shuttles" before the arrival of the British fleet at the Falklands, said the situation was not totally hopeless. It added, "By the time the British fleet arrives at Ascension Island, we will know whether there will be war."

Australia: "A Haig Formula Should Prevail"

Today's West Australian of Perth wrote: "With the dispute over the Falkland Islands having more to do with national pride than anything else, the peace proposals Mr. Haig is peddling between Britain and Argentina amount to a reasonable compromise--they allow both sides to back off with honor.

"Saving face is crucial and under the Haig proposals there is room for an absurd and tragic confrontation to be avoided while the fine points of sovereignty are negotiated...

"The danger is that with so much prestige and popularity riding on the outcome, both governments will be extremely wary of making concessions in case they appear to be signs of weakness or defeat. Yet compromise they must if they are not going to decide the issue with ships and soldiers. The Haig formula, or an adaptation of it, should prevail."

India: Emphasis on Haig "New Ideas" Remark

Major Indian papers today prominently carried Secretary Haig's statement that "new ideas" had come up during his London visit to resolve the Falkland Islands issue.

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PROPOSED U.S. SALE TO TAIWAN--Beijing radio's domestic service this morning ran a Foreign Ministry statement referring to the proposed U.S. sale to Taiwan of military spare parts as a "violation of China's sovereignty by the U.S. Government" and saying that "the Chinese Government lodges a strong protest with the U.S. Government" against this action...

"At present, negotiations between the two sides...are still in progress. If the U.S. Government continues to ignore China's sovereignty...it must bear responsibility for all the consequences."

"No Room for Compromise"

Today's English-language China Daily of Beijing ran an editorial under the title "Principle vs. Expediency" saying that "any action the U.S. Government might take in connection with Taiwan will be judged according to whether it would bolster the island's separation from the mainland, or leave it as a matter to be decided solely by the Chinese.

"The whole world is watching closely whether or not the U.S. Government will stand by its own pledge to respect China's sovereign rights over Taiwan. As far as China is concerned, there cannot be any room for compromise when national sovereignty is at stake."