

CALL BY SOVIET AMBASSADOR ON MR HURD, 12 O'CLOCK ON 15 APRIL:
FALKLAND ISLANDS

1. Mr Hurd said that he would like to raise the situation in the Falkland Islands. The debate in the House of Commons, as the Ambassador would have noted, had been serious and sober and had shown the unity of the British people and political parties. The UK was seeking a political solution on the basis of Security Council Resolution 502, which the Soviet Union had not opposed. Nevertheless the UK retained the right of self-defence under the UN Charter and the Prime Minister's resolve was clear. Meanwhile we had been following carefully the public Soviet line as revealed in the press. We were a little disturbed by it. No publicity had been given to the Security Council's call for Argentinian withdrawal, which was a mandatory Chapter VII Resolution. The Soviet press had given no indication of how the Soviet Union had spoken and acted, and showed an increasing tendency to ignore the action of the Security Council which was based on the laws of international order. It presented the situation increasingly as simply a colonial dispute while not mentioning the principle of self-determination which was fundamental to decolonisation. Were it properly taken into account, the justice of the UK's case would be clear. The Falklands crisis was important for the UK and for the principles of international order.

2. Mr Popov said that the Soviet position was principled, not opportunist. For some two decades since 1963 the Soviet Union had supported the majority view of the General Assembly which called for decolonisation of the Falkland Islands. As for the present situation the Soviet Union believed that the UK/Argentina quarrel should be solved by peaceful means, with no use of force. On 5 April in Belgrade Mr Gromyko had opposed the addition of another flashpoint to the turbulent international scene. Calm, balanced and peaceful means should be used. A peaceful outcome
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would be in the interest of all states. Mr Hurd pointed out that force had already been used. The situation was dangerous. He hoped that the Soviet Union would be helpful over the implementation of SCR 502.

cc:- PS
PS/Mr Hurd
PS/Mr Rifkind
PS/Mr Onslow
PS/PUS
Mr Giffard
Mr Ure
Falkland Islands Unit
SAmD
EESD

Chancery, Moscow

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