

M.F. 39



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AVS (D staff) As you will know

OD (S4) decided not to pursue the question of a resolution for the time being. Sofs had already decided that, although he agrees with all of this, he did not wish to associate himself overtly with the restriction! You will wish to have this on file. 3

Brian Fall sent me a copy of his letter to you today covering Mr Pym's latest message to Mr Haig and a draft resolution for the UN Security Council.

M/S/L/S
 12/4

Mr Nott was pleased to see that the draft resolution was very much in line with the kind of posture we should want to adopt in the United Nations if we decided to go that way. It will be interesting to see what Sir Anthony Parsons has to say about it. There is clearly a good deal to be said for getting the Security Council into play and avoiding the ground being taken by someone acting against our interests, and those compelling us to use the veto. At the same time, however, we do need to think carefully whether this is the road we want to take in terms of our domestic and international position and how, if we did so, it would fit in with the other main strands of our policy.

It is not, moreover, immediately clear that we ourselves need to take the lead at the UN. It might be much less of a restriction on our own actions if another country, acting on our behalf, were to do so. We should at least consider, depending on how Mr Haig's attempts at negotiation come out, whether there is a role for the United Nations here.

Perhaps the most important point is that we need to be very clear about the way in which we could carry on activities at the United Nations while preserving freedom of action in military terms whether in the maritime exclusion zone around the Falkland Islands or in South Georgia. We should perhaps also consider just how we should handle in this, and other, context the question of the dependencies. Do we take it as axiomatic that they must be coupled with whatever solution we are thinking about for the Falkland Islands.

Mr Nott believes that we shall need to bring our thinking on all this together and perhaps see whether officials can put together some more comprehensive approach which would set both ideas about the United Nations and our projected military plans within the proper-political context.

(N H R EVANS)

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